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# The Long Island FISHERMAN

*The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!*

AUGUST 12th, 1976, ISSUE No. 30

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# The Long Island FISHERMAN

*The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!*

VOL. 11, No. 30 AUGUST 12th, 1976


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### *About the Cover—*

Joe Giallanzo of the Babylon Tuna Club along with Vinny De Martino, Jerry Smigiel and Bob Heinitz with weakfish of 12 pounds 8 ounces, 11 pounds 8 ounces, 11 pounds 10 ounces 10 pounds 9 ounces and 10 pounds all in one hour. The weaks were caught aboard the "Five Dee's" on live bunker in the Fire Island Inlet on July 21st.


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# CONTESTS & TOURNAMENTS

### 1976 JULY CONTEST WINNERS OF 17th ANNUAL JONES BEACH, CAPTREE & ROBERT MOSES STATE PK FISHING CONTEST

From the surf and bank 1st place to John Christiansen of Baldwin for a striped bass of 39 pounds 4 ounces taken at Jones Beach; 2nd to Gary Mims of Lindenhurst for a striped bass of 29 pounds and 10 ounces and 3rd place to George Portalatin of Elmont for a striped bass of 29 pounds.

From the pier, 1st to Frank Colossale of Ridgewood for a fluke of 7 pounds 8 ounces taken at Captree; 2nd to John Vasak of Massapequa for a fluke of 6 pounds 4 ounces taken at Robert Moses; and 3rd to Mills Pogue of Flushing for a bluefish of 5 pounds 8 ounces taken at Jones beach.

From the boat 1st to Harvey Bergman of Bayside for a fluke of 9 pounds 12 ounces taken off the Captain Gregory; 2n to Albert Golubock of Flushing for a fluke of 9 pounds 7 ounces taken off the Capt. Leitch and 3rd to Ed Golinski of Rosedale for a fluke of 9 pounds 2 ounces taken off the Capt. Rohl.

# News Releases

### JONES BEACH AND CAPTREE FISHING CLINIC SCHEDULE

The Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission is sponsoring a fishing clinic at Jones Beach Fishing Piers and Captree Fisherman's Walk. Jones Beach at 10:00 s.m. and Captree at 1:00 P.M.

On August 14th for bluefish and "snapper" fishing. On Aug. 21st for Surf Fishing Part I and August 28th for Surf Fishing part 2. September 4th will be for striped bass fishing.

### NEW 200 MILE LIMIT NEWSLETTER

The Emergency Committee to Save America's Marina Resources has issued an updated newsletter which provides all the latest information on the effort to achieve the 200 mile limit and details about the administration of the new law. Also included is a complete breakdown of the votes on the 200 mile limit in both the House and the Senate so every citizen may know whether his senators and representative are truly concerned about the conservation of marine resources.

Although the Emergency Committee achieved it's purpose of having a 200 mile limit bill passed into law in little more than four years, it will continue to operate in order to monitor the implementation of HR-200. The Emergency Committee has been recognized by the Federal Government as a legitimate and persuasive organization in the marine conservation field and regularly receives marine fisheries plans and treaties from the Departments of Commerce and State for review. Chairman Al Ristori is one of an informal group of marine recreational fisheries leaders who meet on a tri-monthly basis with the chairman of the National Marine Fisheries Service in Washington, D.C.. New members are welcomed and a membership blank is included in the latest newsletter.

The updated newsletter is being mailed out automatically to all present Emergency Committee members. If any member doesn't recieve their newsletter they are requested to write to the Emergency Committee and request a copy. The Committee will be happy to supply newsletters to anyone requesting them at no charge. However, a stamped self addressed envelope is requested. Such requests should be addressed to the Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources, 110 Charlotte Place, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632.

### BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 13-6 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will begin a six lesson safe boating course at the Long Creek Marina in Freeport on August 17th at 7:30 P.M.. Classes will meet once a week, until September 21st. The course will be given by qualified instructors and will feature many aspects of safe boating. This course is open to the general public, so don't forget! August 17th at the Long Creek Marina. See you there!

# CLUB NEWS

### BALDWIN ROD AND GUN CLUB

Any sportsman 21 years or older, interested in joining a club featuring good fishing, hunting, pistol, rifle and trap shooting activities, is welcome to join the Baldwon Rod and Gun Club. This club meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Freeport Elks Club, Merrick Road, Freeport. If you are interested come to our meeting and see one of our officers.

# EDITORIAL

## On Fish & Hula Hoops

The topic of today's discussion is something that's been gnawing at my innards for some time. It is a difficult item to attack because of the danger that one may be either called a simpleton or accused of being something of a bourgeois snob. None-the-less, with these inherent dangers in mind, here we go.

Recently, I thumbed through the pages of a sportfishing magazine and discovered that they were going to sponsor a fishing tournament. Now, I'm not on the tournament trail but some aspects of competitive fishing stir my curiosity. The following species are eligible: Chinook salmon, coho salmon, bluefin tuna, tarpon, sailfish, striped marlin, blue marlin, and white marlin. The publication had its reasons for selecting these species based upon geography and I'm not criticizing the magazine directly.

But, whatever happened to those species of gamefish by which we make our stock and trade? Billfish are great sport, shark fishing surely has its place, luring a giant tuna to a hunk of fishbait has to be a great challenge, and I wouldn't take a thing away from the guys and gals who do it. But, in the last few years more and more tournaments are concentrating on these species to the exclusion of many others. From what I have seen of shark fishing it is interesting but not terribly difficult. When the nasty critters are around, most specimens seem very willing to inhale a bait even close to a boat and in crystal clear water. Try that trick on a striped bass even at night when their visibility is restricted and you'll find few takers.

Let's be honest! How many people can afford to wander offshore in search of mighty deep-sea denizens? Even chartering someone else's equipment for the day will cost several hundred dollars. Yes, there are a lot of people who roam the ocean for monsters and they deserve a reasonable percentage of news coverage and tournament money. But, what percentage of the total salt water angling population do offshore fishermen represent? I personally think that we are witnessing the old "hula hoop snydrome", or jump on the bandwagon before it leaves town idea.

The emphasis upon these glamour species coincides with the appearance of open console fishing machines, with ocean seaworthiness and long range capabilities. Even though these boats may cost 10 to 20 thousand dollars or more, the price does compare favorably with largely cabin craft. Today's cruisers can easily cost 50 thousand to—let's just say something over 100 thousand dollars. The open fishing machines draw little water and therefore they double as family runabouts crossing the shallow bays and flats as easily as the open ocean.

However, let us not forget the common people. I mean no disrespect by that, because I consider myself to be in that group. The people who seek everything from flounders to porgies to red snapper to cod to striped bass and bluefish are the folks who spend the money that keeps those in the angling business alive. We may not go out and drop $50 dollars in one shot, but there are millions of us each spending our 10 or 20 bucks a week or so and that adds up to big bucks for boat manufacturers, tackle companies, clothing manufacturers, and bait dealers. The list doesn't end here either.

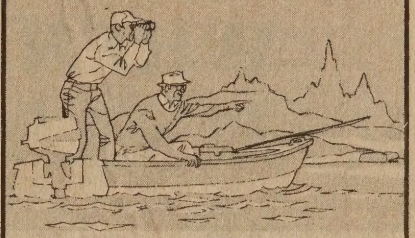
I submit, that we the common folk, make fishing what it is. If a boat manufacturer didn't sell 50,000 copies of a certain model to people who roam about the bays in search of bass, fluke, weakfish, etc., they wouldn't be able to afford to make those boats for the few thousand who want them for fishing in the glamour area.

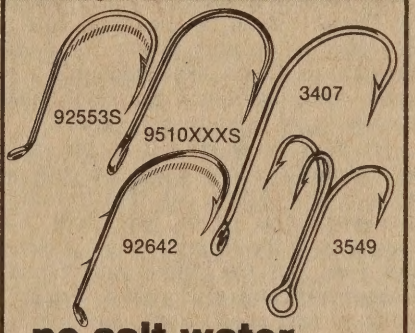
We need more tournaments and contests where the "common fisherman" like you and I can participate. The Jones Beach Fishing Contest is a huge success every year, as is the Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest, and local competition such as the one sponsored by Island Taxidermy. However, the money to run these contests seems to be drying up quickly and each year brings new limitations and rumors that this will be the last year of the contest. It is expensive to operate these competitions, but the money comes back many times over.

The "common fisherman" like me needs recognition and that's one of the reasons why The Long Island Fisherman has been successful. We're just a bunch of everyday salt water fishermen and we believe in the sport that we love. You'll find me on the beach regularly trying to fool some bass, blue, or

(Continued on page 49.)


MUSTAD SALT WATER HOOKS



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# CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

# WHERE ARE THE BASS?

Where did the striped bass go? That's the question being asked this spring throughout the range of The Fisherman circulation. While I've had some good reports from Martha's Vineyard and the Cape, the spring bass run from Delaware to Rhode Island is generally being described as the worst in memory. Some big bass are being taken (though not in the usual quantities), but small bass seem to have virtually disappeared.

The situation appears to be the same throughout the area. I was just talking with Harry Aiken, of Georgetown, Delaware the other day and his evaluation of the striper run in Delaware this year was that there wasn't one! Delaware anglers usually get a lot of surf action in March and April, followed by some fin light tackle sport in the Indian River area. There just wasn't much of that fishing this year and since this area is close to the spawning grounds of both Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, the lack of small bass bodes ill for the future.

The spring run of stripers in the New Jersey-New York area has been equally disappointed. The reports you see in fishing columns seem a little rosier as it's human nature to report only the good catches and ignore the bad days. When was the last time you read that "Capt. Joe Blow called in to tell us about the 40 lb. striper taken by his party on Sunday. Joe said he was damn lucky to catch it as it was the only fish caught by 200 boats trolling off Oilslick Beach and the first decent fish he's caught all spring." More likely would read "Capt. Joe Blow called in to say that the Oilslick Beach area is producing the big bass it's noted for, as evidenced by the 40 pounder he boated on Sunday. Joe noted that the next few weeks should produce great fishing and cautioned that charter dates are going fast!"

The best feeling for the quality of the fishing comes from the rod and reel commercials, and those I know have been having slim pickings this spring. The situation in eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island are similar. Capt. Al Anderson, one of the best in the Point Judith area, has been struggling for one or two fish a tide, day and night, though many of his fish have been in the forties. He mentioned another skipper who had made seven straight trips without a bass, and this around the full moon in June! Rumors of good catches in The Race turned out to be exaggerated.

I talked to Billy DeNoia, the famed tuna skipper, who's been fishing the area and he assured me that the fishing has been just as spotty there as elsewhere. After a promising start, it dropped off to where some trips were complete blanks.

Montauk is the only place I've fished stripers this spring and the situation there is the same. The spring run was poor and composed of almost exclusively medium and large fish. The rips off Montauk are among the most consistent producers of bass along the entire coast during the spring and fall runs and the charter captains that fish them know all the secrets. There's not much sport involved, as 300-400 feet of wire is streamed, but it's certainly productive. Yet, even this method didn't produce well this spring. Even on the occasional good days, catches were relatively small and on the bad days it took a good skipper to scratch out a fish or two. What a contrast to last year, when huge schools of bass swept past the point from late May to mid June. I heard one skipper comment on the CB that he was fishing the same party that had taken 70 bass on an all day trip the previous year. Fishing the exact date this year they had one!

Bass fishing is almost always better at dawn or dusk, rather than at mid-day. Indeed, both trollers and diamond jiggers were picking away at some bass during the evenings at the Elbow early in the month. However, even that must have dropped off as I took a ride down to the Point on Monday, June 14th and found I was the only boat fishing the entire area during the time I was there (6:00 to 8:00 P.M.). I didn't think I'd ever see that happen during bass season unless it was blowing 40 mph or more! Ironically, despite slack tides, I picked up a 37 pounder and a friend boated a decent bluefish—though those were the only two hits we got. Those bass that did come through seemed to be on the move. The first evening I fished Montauk, in early June, I spotted a few gulls working well east of Great Eastern. Running over to the area I got good readings of both fish and bait and ended up tagging (with American Littoral Society tags) four bass from 10 to 15½ pounds and dropping a couple of bigger ones. Being well away from the normal trolling and jigging grounds, I was all alone and figured I had it made. The next morning I was back at the same stage of the tide and tagged a bass almost immediately. However, I didn't mark a thing and never got another hit—the fish were gone in one change of tide!

Fortunately, the night fishing saved the spring. It was no slaughter, but we consistently took 6-10 bass a tide, with almost all being in the twenties and thirties. There seemed to be quite a few that went 28 and 32 pounds and a goodly number from 35 to 41 pounds. However, the disturbing part of this fishing was the almost complete lack of small fish. The smallest in two weeks of night fishing was 9 pounds, and we caught few below the upper teens. In fact, our sense of proportion was so thrown out of whack, that we'd toss a small bass into the box in assumption that it was an "eating size" schoolie, and later find that it weighed 16 pounds. Now, it's nice to catch big bass (indeed that's the only reason I'll fish wire line), but the lack of small bass casts a shadow over future bass prospects.

Why the relatively poor run of bass this spring? It could be due to a serious decrease in the number of bass available, or a temporary change in the migratory pattern, or a shift in bait concentrations, or the strange spring weather conditions. The possibilities are many and we can only hope that the first mentioned is not the reason. The bait supply could certainly be a key factor in the poor fishing at Montauk. Due to other commitments, I was only able to fish Montauk for one day, and a few hours the next morning, last spring. Yet, in that limited amount of time, I caught 26 bass, most of which were tagged and released. However, the few I cleaned were jammed full of very large sand eels (8 to 10 inches). This was true of both fish taken in the rips, and those caught near shore. I got most of my action casting a bucktail jig, with light tackle under the light. Most of the bass were in the 6 to 12 pound class, but there were a few smaller plus a couple of 17 pounders and even a 35 pounder. A pleasing range

of year classes and plenty of big baitfish, while on the other hand, the fish I cleaned this year were usually empty. A few were full of tiny sand eels that were abundant around the shorelines, while others had eaten bottom fish—flounders whiting, and tiny porgies. Quite a change from last year and possibly the reason for the fish either avoiding or refusing to stay in the area.

At first I was surprised to find the fish empty, as many of them seemed to be almost round. Then I found something that I'd never seen in a bass before—green roe. Several of our fish had green, running roe—in other words they were ready to spawn. But what are spawning fish doing off Montauk in June? Stripers require rivers for spawning and take care of this portion of their life cycles in April and May in the various tributories of Chesapeake and Delaware Bays and the Hudson River. Fish on the migratory run should have already spawned and developed small, yellow roes that will mature by the following spring. I took these roes to the Ocean Science Lab at Montauk and found that they've been getting similar reports this year but don't know what to make of it.

Bob Pond, the Atom plug maker and founder of Stripers Unlimited, has his own theories about these odd occurences and the general decline of striper fishing. Bob feels that PCB's have so fouled up the eggs and instincts of the striper that we won't have any more good year classes. Despite the incredible pressures exerted on the striped bass population, the species has been able to keep up with the depradations of both man and nature by a happy combination of circumstances that occasionally results in an exceptional spawning year. Such an instance occured in 1958 and that year class provided great sport into the late sixties, when 20 and 30 pounders were almost too easy to catch. The class of 1964 provided a good back-up to the 1958 group, and another great class arrived in 1970. Some Chesapeake authorities said it would be the best of all—and that prediction seemed accurate based upon the schoolie fishing we experienced in the fall of '74 and last spring. However, Maine was almost devoid of school stripers for the first time in memory last summer and our fall run of schoolies was disappointing. Further south it was disastrous! Though the '70 year class is now the mostly 10 to 15 lb. fish that provided most of the daytime action at Montauk this spring, they certainly don't appear to be very abundant any more—at least in contrast to previous strong year classes.

In recent times, good year classes have appeared at six year intervals and maintained consistently good striper fishing. We won't know if that pattern will continue this year for quite some time as seining samples will be taken in the Chesapeake rivers during the summer and fall and the data probably won't be released until late in the year. Regardless of what the samples show, Bob Pond feels that the year class won't survive to save our fishing. The present lack of small bass indicates that the last few spawning runs have been unsuccessful, but Bob is of the opinion that chemical problems will prevent the fish from maturing in any case. He's been raising stripers in tanks at Stripers Unlimited headquarters for years and has noted that fish from the past few years are listless and eventually die.

In fact, Bob feels that the striped bass has been evolving into a less aggressive fish over the years. This is an interesting theory which is possibly deserving of another column. It is true that when we were fishing the 1958 year class as schoolies, we rarely used anything except popping plugs. Even many of the big fish taken at that time fell to poppers and Reverse Atoms. The type of surface action we had in those days is rare today, even when the fish are abundant. Once again, it could be a matter of the types of bait available, or it could be that the more aggressive fish were caught and those left to reproduce were less aggressive. Readers comments on this phenomenon are solicited.

Bob has received many reports about green eggs in migrating bass and feels that part of the problem may be a lack of males in the population. Stripers Unlimited is presently conducting a population dynamics survey which requires information concerning the length, weight, sex and a scale sample. You don't have to be a purist to provide this info. Sex can be determined without cutting the fish by inserting a plastic straw. Males have white milt and females have green to yellow eggs. Sheets are available from Stripers Unlited, P.O. Box 45, South Attleboro, Mass. 02703.

I wish I could tell you just why we had a poor spring run and also assure you that things will get better. Unfortunately I can do neither. The main body of fish may have just "missed" us this spring, or then again, there may not be any such thing as a main body anymore. A general decrease in the overall population is apparent in the poor summer fishing which is now commonplace along the entire range of the striper. Whether the population is so depleted as to even inhibit good fall fishing (when the fish school up for migration) is something that we'll have to wait a few months to determine.

In any case, the warning signs are out. The population levels appear low; the river systems that are necessary for spawning are increasingly polluted; and the wetlands that the fingerlings depend on are being lost to development every year. On top of all this, commercial pressure on the stocks increase as the fish decrease, since the price continues to escalate. Ten years ago it took 500 pounds to bring the return that 100 pounds often does today. Add to this the rapid increase in the number of marine sport fishermen (about 20,000,000 nationwide) and their degree of sophistication as compared to the anglers of even the previous decade (better equipment, depth sounders, and most of all the knowledge derived from publications such as The Fisherman) and you can understand the pressures effecting the striped bass. With all this in mind, can you really believe they will reproduce like Al Cap's "schmoos" to satisfy our every desire?

I may be wrong, but the day of unlimited striper catches is probably coming to an end. This trend has been apparent for a number of years and unless a great year class bails us out again, we'll have to come to grips with the problem quickly or risk a disaster in the fishery in the near future. I for one, would rather exercise caution now than spend my dotage telling the kids about how great the striper fishing used to be. No one likes regulations and limits, but then again, no one likes lousy fishing. We may be at a point where we'll have to make that choice. Drop me a line and let me know what you think!


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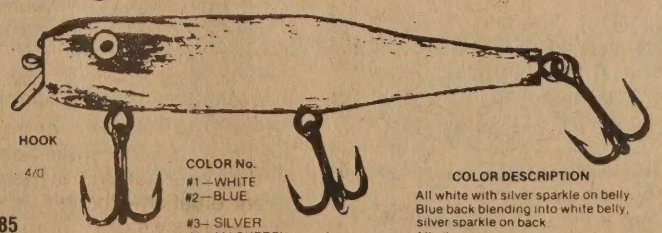

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# FRESHWATER FISHING
*with Angelo Peluso*

# MARVIN MIMS: The Vacuum Cleaner

I guess that I wouldn't have believed it had I not witnessed it for myself, but this sort of thing just doesn't occur on Long Island, or for that matter all too frequently in the rest of New York State. The man had found a concentration of largemouth bass that were busting 30 pound test line! That's right, 30 pound monofilament. In a span of ten minutes, Mr. Marvin Mims and Mr. Largemouth Bass encountered each other and abruptly parted company twice. Now mind you, this is happening while bass in the 3 to 6 pound class are filling the live well. Sounds like a real fish story, you say. Well bassin' buddies, it is. But only this fish story is true.

The time of the occurrence was April, 1976 and the place was Lake Marion, the upper portion of the Santee-Cooper impoundment in So. Carolina. My friends and I were fishing the last afternoon of our three day trip. This was the last shot at a trophy bass and we were high with enthusiasm. Though the previous two days had been quite productive insofar as smaller bass up to 4 pounds are concerned, that ole mossback hawg was ever so elusive. This particular noon-time found us eating our lunch at the Canal Motel in Cross, So. Carolina, along with our guides Marshall Smith and Marvin Mims. As we discussed the fishing strategy for the remainder of the day, Marvin indicated that he knew the whereabouts of some good bass. It was decided that both boats would proceed to the upper lake and work the cypress trees, within visual contact with each other. I was with Marshall who, by the way, I had fished with during the first two days. We had gotten into some decent fish earlier, but we were now intent on hunting out the lunkers.

As we talked, we noticed Marvin gesturing that it was time to move on to another location. The area to which we were going turned out to be a hidden black water pond; one that Marvin's continual searching had uncovered for him. His boat entered first and no sooner than the first cast, my buddies were into bass. It took awhile to get the hang of fishing this pond, but it wasn't long before I had a fish. As I fished I kept a watchful eye on Marvin's boat and observed him catching bass after bass. Long about this time Marshall turned to me and said, "They call that man a vacuum cleaner cause he just sucks those bass up from the roots." Lord, it was so true. Neither my friends nor I had ever seen anyone catch bass like this fella. And you know what's even more astonishing? He can just about pinpoint the location of a bass on seven out of ten attempts. "Put your lure there. Oughta be one." Sure as the sun is gonna rise your chances are good that you'll feel the tell-tale "tap."

**The "Vacuum Cleaner" himself with a common 7 ½ pound bass.**

It was in this pond that Marvin enticed two huge stump huggin' bass to strike his 6 inch plastic worm. And it was there that the same pair of bigmouths busted him off. The sequence of events with both bass involved a pinpoint cast, a slight tap, a drop of the rod, a set hook, a surge and a SNAP. Marvin was able to feel the authority of one of the bass and his concern was evident when he yelled. "Marshall, this is HIM." Now we all know who HIM is: Grandaddy Bass. But no sooner said than lost. Though a number of good sized fish were taken following these two hawg encounters, it was extremely difficult for me to maintain my concentration. My imagination created an almost real portrait of the line-busters and I knew that I wanted one.

But unfortunately, this trip had come to an end. The events that took place in the black water pond were to affect my life during the coming months. As we said our farewells and started our drive from the Canal Motel to the Columbia Airport I re-lived the three day span and spoke continually of Marvin's uncanny ability to find bass. The conversation was constant the entire way home, content remaining unchanged.

"How was the trip?," my wife asked. "Did you catch a big one?" Though my first response was "Great," and my second "No," little did I realize that I did, in fact, catch more than just bass on this trip. I caught the Southern Bassin' Bug and Mr. Mims was the carrier. Let me tell you, I became so obsessed with southern bass fishing that visions of lunker bass constantly clouded my thoughts. I was transformed into a drone programmed to think, talk and respond in terms of bass. Now this is pretty strange when you consider that I've been freshwater fishing since the age of 16. But freshwater fishing and Santee Bassin' are two separate and distinct entities. To experience the former in no way prepares one for the latter.

So controlled had I become by this Santee Cooper experience, that my wife, in an attempt to end my misery, suggested that we take a week's vacation deep in the heart of bass country. Just imagine my reaction; like a kid on Christmas Eve. I immediately phoned Mari Dickson at the Canal Motel to reserve a room. By the way, Mari and her husband Gene are the new owners of

the Canal Motel, a full service fishing camp; complete with guides, boats, launching facilities, lodging, tackle, food bait, fish stories and southern hospitality.

Reservations made, I hurriedly called the vacuum cleaner. "Marvin, Angelo from New York."

"How you doin, Hoss?", was his reply. (Note: Hoss is a nickname that Marvin tagged me with.)

"Great, I'm comin' back in June. Are you free?"

"Yep, first week in June."

"Good, I'll be there." "Tell Marshall that I'll fish two days with you and two with him."

"Ok, Hoss."

So the next trip was planned. Now only the wait and anxiety. As I started to get my gear conditioned, I realized that on my first trip to Santee I loaded my reels with 17 pound test, 20 pound on the second trip and now I was spooling 25. Call it optimism if you will, but I call it precaution. Hooking a big Santee bass is one thing, landing it is another. The stumps, trees, roots, and stick-ups all act on behalf of the fish, not the fisherman.

The two months preceeding the trip finally passed and that eventful day came when my wife and I embarked for points south. The trip is approximately 800 miles straight down Interstate 95, and it gives one plenty of time to think (16 hours to be exact). As you can well imagine those hours "took their time" in passing, but we finally made it. Though exhausted, the sight of the diversion canal and the thought of what was swimming around in them thar waters was enough to re-vitalize me. By the way, the Canal Motel, which would be our base of operation is situated right on the diversion canal, separating the upper and lower lakes. The water looked real good, but unfortunately the weather didn't. As we arrived so did a thunderstorm which, by the way, proved to be the best weather that we would have during our stay. The weatherman even had a few tornado watches in store for us. This type of weather is not normal for the month of June but it was nevertheless a factor that we would have to contend with, and hopefully make the best of. Bass act in funny ways and many of their actions are directly related to weather conditions. We would just have to keep our fingers crossed.

The remainder of that first day was rather routine. We checked in, ate, chatted with Mari Dickson, rigged our gear and retired for the evening. Bright and early at 5:00 A.M. on day two my wife and I arose. We planned a light breakfast since we were scheduled to meet Marshall Smith at 5:45. We would be fishing with Marshall on the first and fourth days of our stay. Marvin had us booked for Saturday and Sunday. Entering the restaurant we noticed Marshall patiently awaiting our arrival. After a quick introduction to my wife, we were off, on our way to a launch site some 15 minutes from the Canal Motel. This drive would put us a short distance by water from the first location that we would be fishing.

I had fished this area before, on my last trip. It was a pond prior to the area being flooded for the creation of the impoundment. As the foot controlled electric motor quietly moved us within the confines of the pond. I prepared myself for that first cast. Each of us had on a 6 inch plastic worm and slip sinker rigged Texas style. We were casting and moving and it wasn't too long before Marshall had a bass on. Then Sandra nailed her first Moultrie bass, a solid three pounder. Next, it was my turn. We eventually circled the pond three times and picked up a total of eight bass. This area proved to be the most consistent producer of the first day. Although we managed to boat about twenty bass, the fishing got progressively worse as the weather worsened. It took quite a bit of hard casting to fill the well on this day.

Marvin Mims greeted us on the morning of day two and began our meeting with a discussion of the locations that we would be fishing. Since this day's wind and rain was a bit more severe than the first, Marvin decided to fish Lake Marion, as it was sheltered from the wind.

Our morning fishing would be primarily among the cypress trees. The first stop was only five minutes from the launch area.

"Put on a shallow runner, Hoss. Bass chasin shad in here."

Bing! Bang! Boom! Three bass in the live well, "vacuumed" right off the bottom.

"Ok, let's move."

"Put your worm there, Hoss. Right at the base of that cypress."

"Got him yet, Hoss?"

As I lifted the rod, the tap told me that the bass was there and that he ate my worm.

"Cross his eyes Hoss."

Slam! Into the boat he came.

"Cast between that group of cypress first. Then that tupelo." Three more fish.

Now Marvin fishes fast and hard and this is the way it went all day. For our diligent efforts we were rewarded with 33 bass, most of which were returned. All of the fish were good sized ones, with the leader of the pack being a healthy 7½ pounder. Incidentally, our catch was larger than any of the other anglers' that

(Continued on page 49.)


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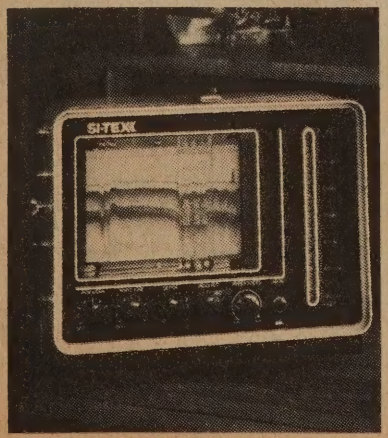

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Surf Side
with Bruce Sucher

# FISHING THE FLATS

When a fisherman hears the word 'flats' it invariably brings to mind bonefish, permit and crushed coral beaches. The tropical sun is over head and the individuals milky winter skin is shielded with layers of Coppertone. The northern angler is lucky to get on two weeks a year of this fishing. For fifty weeks he sayes and dreams of the solitude, the sun and the fighting fish at the end of his line. Being of modest income I am one of the many who must dream for fifty-two weeks about the bonefish and the crystalline thigh deep water. But I fish the flats for at least four months of the year and I have rarely been skunked.

I parked my car in the Plumb Beach parking lot. It was the second week in August and the snappers were big enough to hit the ⅓ ounce Sidewinder. I pulled on my hip boots and snapped my lure to the end of the four pound test mono. The rod and reel were ultra-light and I looked forward to the morning's fishing. I walked to the water and slowly followed the beach east, casting as I went. Occasionally a small snapper would hit the lure and on the fine light tackle it would put up a good fight. Then a fish hit and I set the hook. The snappers I'd been catching were about a quarter pound. The fish I struck took off for the Rockaways like a torpedo. The drag was loose and I watched the light line melt from the thimble sized spool. About sixty yards out the fish turned on it's side and the nice sized tail slapped the water. It was a bass of about 5 pounds. The fish took me wherever it wanted to. It made a few shorter runs and it was tiring. Then it came straight to the shore and in a few more minutes it was almost over. I grabbed for the tail and threw it up on the beach. In shock I sat down, smoked a cigarette and thought about what had happened.

The first thing I did was to check the fishing out. Was it abnormal in any way? Had some physical deformity forced it to forage in the shallow water? No, it was a perfect image of the original mold. then why was this bass, a variety I thought only lurked in pounding surf and deep channels here? I left the fish and walked to the water. I waded out and began thinking. There were plenty of spearing in the flats, that's why I fished here for the snappers. Through the somewhat murky water I could see Calico crabs scampering away from my size eleven rubber clad feet. Closer examination showed there were many grass shrimp as well. I went back to the bass, took out my knife and gutted it. Fortunately, it had not spit up its last supper. From the swollen stomach poured grass shrimp, small crabs about the size of a quarter and a half digested spearing. Though I am not a scientist, I am capable of deductive reasoning. With the clues I had been given even a dunce of an angler could figure what was happening. I caught a few more snappers thinking all the while about what I had seen.

**Fruit of the flats. Exploration now will pay dividends in the coming season.**

That evening I returned. Instead of hip boots I put on waders to allow me to fish in deeper waters. The ultra-light tackle was replaced with a seven foot spin stick and a 306 Mitchell full of fresh ten pound test line. The heavier tackle was to give me greater distance in my casting, and the ability to use a wider range of lures. The first lure I chose was a small popper. After a dozen casts I put it away. The

next was a floating Rebel of about four inches, still no luck. As the sun began to set a small flock of terns had moved over the flats scooping up spearing from the quiet water. Behind me on the Belt Parkway the traffic was still heavy to the Island. I looked at the remaining lures. I chose a ½ oz. Kastmaster, it's treble hook dressed with a small piece of bucktail. The wind has freshened, blowing away the armada of gnats and mosquitos that clustered about my head. I cast the metal lure out as far as I could and then slowly, steadily retrieved it. On the third cast I felt a fish nudge it. On the fourth cast I was in. The small bass, a short as it turned out, fought all the way to the beach. I slipped the hook from its lips and watched it swim away. The next cast brought another fish, in fact almost every cast I made for the next hour was greeted by a striper. My right arm grew weary as I caught fish after fish. Of the thirty I caught six were nice keepers up to seven pounds. In fact more would have been 'legal,' but the action was so fast that I only kept the ones with decent shoulders.

Many evenings I would return to the same area and rarely was I disappointed. I would usually catch at least a few shorts, occasionally it would be as good as the first night. One time I hooked into a fish that wouldn't budge. I didn't make any long runs like the bass, but just went back and forth for an incredible ten minutes. Even Johnny Weismuller can't keep this up forever, I thought. I saw it was a big bluefish when a wave broke over its back. Fortunately it was lip hooked. I never use any leader and the ten pound test would have melted before its sharp teeth. The fish was finally exhausted and I lifted it from the water by the tail. It hardly moved when I plopped it down on the sand. I have never used a gaff on the flats, feeling it gave me an undo advantage and because most of the fish were well under ten pounds. The nights I caught bluefish in the shallow water I did not catch any bass. Apparently even they fear being trapped on the flats by these animated meat grinders.

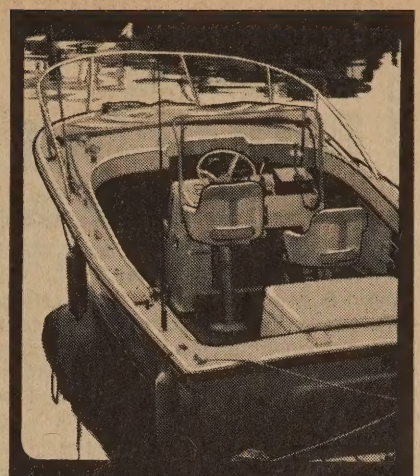
It was later on in the month, during a moon tide that I decided to do some more research. I parked my car and walked out to the exposed sand of dead low tide. Where a few nights before I had caught fish, now there was only damp sand. I started seeing things I had never noticed before. Throughout the flats were small depressions, perhaps eight inches deep that still held some water. I noted that the bottom of these small gullies held a wealth of small marine organisms: crabs, shrimps and killies that had fled there as the water receded. I had no doubts, that the larger predator fish "knew" this as well. An outgoing tide would probably concentrate both bait and game fish in these hollows and later, looking over my journal, I noted that I had made my best catches at this stage of the tide.

I continued on my walk, following the sand around the bend towards the Gerritsen Beach bridge. (On the Belt Parkway, heading east, the first bridge after Sheepshead Bay). The sod banks were about 18 inches high and they led into gently sloping sand. Further out was a deep boat channel that past experience had taught me was good for both species of flat fish, porgies and other bottom feeders. Here was another potential area that during times of light boat traffic would probably produce.

I walked across the Gerritsen Beach Bridge. At the edge of the much receded water were a group of six anglers casting into the deeper water. As I closed with them I saw one was into a nice fish and two others had school sized bass on their belts. As one of the men came out of the water, I questioned him. Yes, there were a lot of fish. He had landed a twenty pounder the week before. The favorite lures were shorty Hopkins during daylight, and bucktails at night. Fish hit other artificials, but these were the standards. The best tide was out going. The fact that this spot was so accessible and known to many anglers has kept me away.

Feeling that I should share some of my luck and recently gained knowledge I called my friend Richie Chessler. He listened patiently to my enthusiastic monologue and then set a date for the next out going tide. When we got there conditions were perfect. We each had the right tackle and we proceeded to get skunked. Some new data for my confused brain. I had taken all the proven knowledge that I had gleaned from my experience on the flats and came up blank. The only thing that was different was that there was another fisherman. Still, I had seen a group fishing the drop-off near the bridge. Apparently the sound of our voices and the two pair of sloshing feet had spooked the fish. The bass were not as wary near the bridge because they were covered with at least twenty foot of water. So it proved. I have never done well on the flats when I took another person. This quiet, peaceful fishing is for the loner.

Since I live only fifteen minutes away from the Plum Beach area it is an ideal location for me. Rarely have I found it necessary to go further. There are flats all over that I have never wet my waders in. Promising turf can be discovered in the spring during the neap tides. One place I've had my eye on are the flats in front of the stone breakwater at Breezy Point. This area looks prime and a little foot work now will surely produce for you later. It sure beats slogging all the way to the crowded jetty. If I see you there don't worry, I won't say hello. I wouldn't want to kill the fishing.

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# Sinker Bouncing

## SHORE FISHING FOR FLUKE

*with Matt Ahern*

I was fishing from a small pier near Shinnecock Inlet and had just landed an average sized fluke. As I tossed it into an old, discarded fish box for safe keeping, a fellow fisherman walked on the pier.

He admired the fish, which by now lay belly up quiet. "I didn't know fluke could be caught so close to shore," he said. "I always figured a boat was necessary."

I placed a fresh strip of sea robin tail on the hook and made another cast, hoping for number two. "Sure, a boat is better," I replied, "But plenty of fluke are caught from shore all summer long."

Which, of course is true. I've seen many fluke caught from the banks of deep water creeks, canal bulkheads, piers and jetties, and over the years I've caught my share. Although, most of these shore caught fluke are average sized fish, a lunker is taken occasionally. I'll never forget the scale weighed eleven pounder I saw caught in Shinnecock Canal several summers ago.

I like shore fishing for fluke because it is easy fishing. Depending upon where you fish, light to medium weight spinning tackle can be used effectively. If you're fishing around an inlet, currents will probably make medium weight tackle a better choice. But if fishing a creek or canal, or wherever tidal action is nil, the lighter stuff will get by without difficulty.

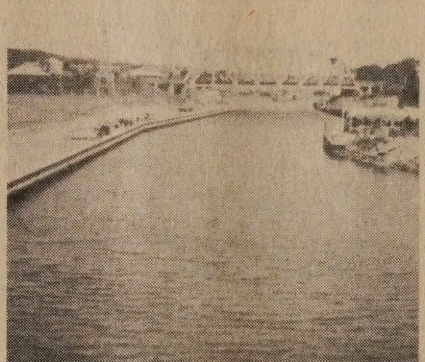
For light spinning equipment, a reel filled with ten pound test monofilament is satisfactory. I wouldn't go below this, though. The shore fisherman never knows how big the next fluke will be—remember the eleven pounder from Shinnecock Canal and be guided accordingly.

For medium-weight tackle where currents are stronger, fifteen to twenty pound test is better. Not that you can expect doormats every time you fish these areas, but strong currents are notorious for dislodging copious amounts of seaweed from the bottom, and occasionally this drapes around the line—most often, it seems, when bringing in a fluke. Light line is apt to part with strain at the crucial moment. I've seen this happen more than once. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Your reel should be of top quality. Fluke like a moving bait, which means you should do a lot of casting and retrieving if you want to catch your share.

You will find the successful fluke fisherman always keeps his bait in motion when shore fishing. Occasionally a fluke is taken on a dead line, but this method of fishing isn't a good habit to get into. The successful fisherman is one who takes advantage of anything that will put fish in his bucket.

When shore fishing, particles of sand and dirt are always present, and no matter how careful the fisherman tries to be, a certain amount will get inside the reel. You'll hear it grate and grind as you reel and it can easily cause internal damage if not removed. If your reel is properly lubricated, you can probably get through the day with it, providing there isn't an excessive amount. If it doesn't stop after several casts, you should check it over. Before you attempt this, however, be sure you know how to put it together. Be sure to clean it thoroughly when the days fishing is over.



**Shinnecock Canal is a favorite spot for fluke fisherman.**

Should you drop your reel in the sand, stop right there, clean it out and relubricate. If you find sand or dirt really packed inside and you can't remove it, don't hesitate to pay a visit to a tackle shop that repairs your type of reel. A good reel is like a fine watch: it will give years of excellent service only when properly cared for, but it can't be abused and be expected to perform adequately. A good reel deserves expert attention.

Rigging for fluke is no problem. A leader is always necessary, not because fluke are shy, but because the use of a leader imparts the necessary action to attract a fluke to the bait.

Leaders come in various lengths, usually eighteen inches to two feet, complete with snelled hook. I believe the two-footer to be better, and a three footer, better still. I know three-foot leaders are hard to come by; if you want to use one of this size, you may have to make it up yourself.

Leader material is especially made for the job, so don't substitute mono line. Mono is too soft and pliable, therefore using it will cause no end of trouble as it curls and twists around the main line. Some fishermen who run short of leaders while fishing, do use mono and they compensate by placing a small clincher sinker near the hook. This small weight helps to keep the mono from twisting. This is a stop-gap measure at best and shouldn't be used to take the place of the real thing.

A 3/0 to 4/0 Carlisle hook, commonly called "the fluke hook" is about the right size to use. It will hook fluke without difficulty and it is strong enough to hold any outsize fish you may be fortunate enough to come by. No matter how experienced the fisherman, when he sees that large mouth armed with those wicked looking teeth, he's always glad he selected a hook with a long shank.

Sinker weight is governed by the strength of the current where the fishing is being done. Usually, though, a two-ounce sinker will be found to be heavy enough in the quiet places away from the inlets, and probably as much as four ounces or more, will be needed when fishing near the ocean. Your bait must be on bottom to do the most good, so it is important that the proper weight be used. But don't over-do. You'll cut into your fun when using too much weight. A bank type sinker is preferred, but any kind except a pyramid will be okay.

Three-way swivels can be tied in directly above the sinker, if you wish. You can also place the leader directly on the line by forming a two-inch double overhand knotted loop a couple of inches above the sinker. Most times, I use a sinker-snap and place the leader and sinker together. Works fine.

Don't forget a net. When fluke fishing, this is almost as important as bait. If fishing from a gently shelving beach, you may be able to land your fish without too much difficulty, but if you

must lift your fish to a pier or bulkhead, you better think seriously about bringing a net. Fluke have a cute trick of shaking free seconds before being lifted from the water. Hundreds of fluke are lost this way each year—don't let it happen to you!

Fluke are predators. Therefore, using such baits as clam, mussel, and worm, will get you a few fluke. I've caught an occasional fluke on worm while flounder fishing late in the season, and I can remember catching one or two on skimmer while sea bass fishing on the offshore wrecks, but these baits should never be depended upon to produce fluke.

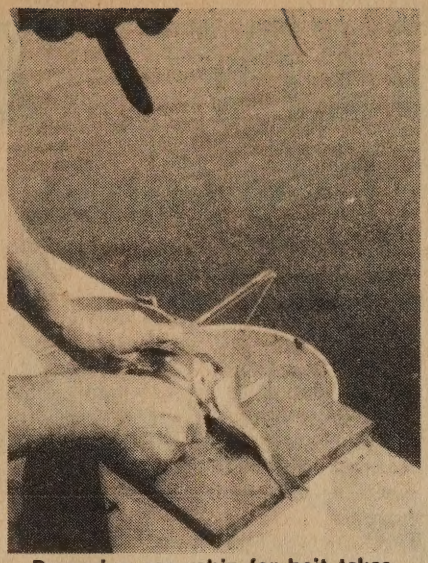
Probably the best bait of all is a live killy about two inches long. If you use these, run the hook in the mouth and out the gill cover—carefully. If done properly, you'll find the killy staying alive a good, long time. Placing the hook through the lips is okay, but if this isn't done just so, it is often lost while casting, or through the actions of a short-biting fluke.

If you plan on doing your fluke fishing near the ocean inlets, sand eels usually can be depended upon to produce. And don't forget the fluke catching ability of small snappers—these baby blues really produce, especially around inlets. Large spearing are often good, but these are best when fresh. Which is a tall order, considering most spearing are purchased frozen. But some fishermen do net their own spearing in the shallows, and needless to say, these fishermen always have the edge.

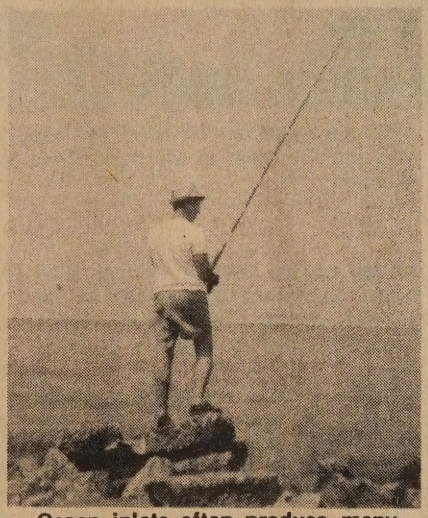
When using whole fish, except killies, run the hook through the head, and then back in the body at mid-point. The bait should lie naturally along the hook shank—bunched bait causes twisted leaders and few fish. When using these baits, always let the fluke munch a bit before setting the hook.

Strips of sea robin and squid are very good. Most all my inshore fluke fishing is done with sea robin bait. There is seldom trouble getting a supply. I sometimes use strips of fish bait cut from the belly of a flounder. Along about mid-April, I place a dozen or so slices in the freezer. Then, should I want to try a little fluke fishing on the spur of the moment, I don't have to worry about securing bait first. Fluke belly works well, but fishermen are not so keen about cutting up their fluke.

It's easy to prepare sea robin for fluke bait. Always leave the scales on as this makes a more appealing bait. Hold the robin down by the head, preferably with a rag because of the sharp spines, and make a cut at the vent to the backbone and then slice along this to the tail. Do the same on the opposite side and you'll have two pieces of choice bait. I usually cut each in lengthways and use the lighter-skinned pieces first. Run the hook through once at the widest part, and that's it. It takes but a minute and makes wonderful bait.



**Preparing sea robin for bait takes but minutes.**



**Ocean inlets often produce many fluke.**

Squid should be washed, preferably in sea water, and the skin removed. Cut into pennant shaped slices about three or four inches long. I usually run the hook through only once at the widest part, but I know fishermen who run the hook back the second time and allow it to protrude near the end. They tell me it assures better hooking this way. Maybe so, but I've never had trouble when hooking through just once. I believe the squid strip is more alluring when allowed to wiggle enticingly in the current. The choice is yours—one method will surely work for you.

As noted before, it is important that you impart action to your bait. Cast out as far as possible and when the rig hits bottom, begin to retrieve it with short lifts of the rod tip, reeling in the slack as you go along. Should you feel a sudden weight, don't be in too much of a hurry to set the hook. Let the fish get the bait down. It may take off with a powerful flick of its tail, hooking itself, or it may just lie quietly. Lift the rod tip and if weight is still felt, set the hook with a follow-through of the rod.

Fluke are caught throughout the inshore waters of the New Jersey Coast, along the south shore of Long Island, in every part of the Montauk area, and to some extent in the Peconics and Long Island Sound. Fishing is always best in areas adjacent to the ocean.

Quite often good fishing can be had from private piers and bulkheads, and frequently if the owner is approached in a sincere, friendly manner, permission is usually granted for its use. I can truthfully say I've seldom been refused permission to use these often ideally situated piers and bulkheads. Needless to say, part of your catch should be offered as a token of appreciation. My offerings have never been accepted, but it is the thought behind it that counts. And most important of all, don't forget to clean up when you're through fishing. Doing it this way insures you a repeat visit.

Give shore fishing for fluke a try soon. You certainly have nothing to lose, and probably a great deal to gain.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# TAGGIN' TIME

## by Jerry Gomber

The striped bass is in still more trouble. Land developers had a crack at the striper with their landfills destroying salt marshes and silting up river beds. Power companies got their shots in with thermal pollution and by locating their cooling water intakes in major spawning areas.

Now, the biggest threat that the striped bass has had to face is a chemical compound called PCB's. You have probably heard or read about this miracle of modern chemistry and its toxic effect on bass eggs and larvae. None of what has been publicized has been on the positive side and "Mr. Bass" is in big trouble.

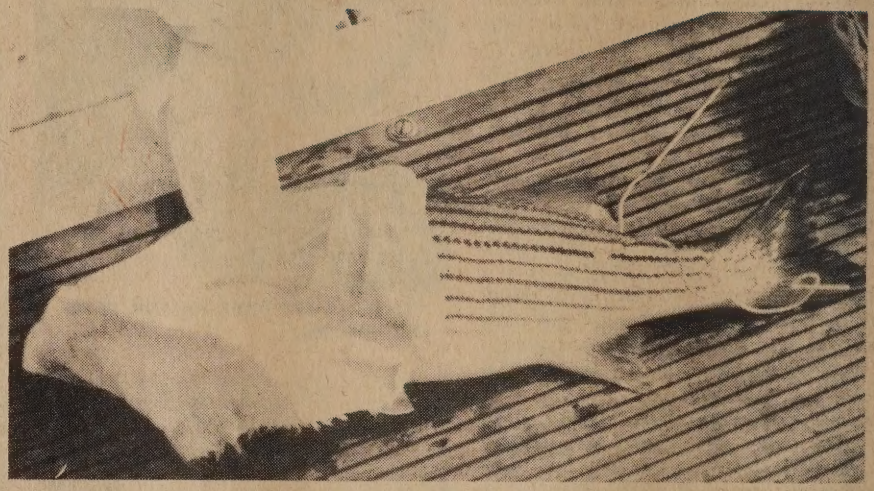
What to do? Well, besides writing letters to your legislators there is an important way that you, the individual angler, can take positive action to help. You can tag fish as part of the largest volunteer fish tagging program in America.

Any legal, environmental or political action that can be mounted to protect the striped bass has to be backed up by facts. Scientists, lawyers, advocates, etc.., are completely helpless without accurate numbers, statistics, and hard facts to support their testimony. Tagging fish can provide those facts and you can do your part. The tagging program in question is managed by The American Littoral Society in Sandy Hook, New Jersey with five local chapters serving nine states.

ALS was formed in 1962 by a group of divers who wanted to help the marine biologists at the Sandy Hook Marine Lab. Since then it has mushroomed to over 4,000 divers, birdwatchers, naturalists, and a whole bunch of sport fishermen who want to help fill the gaps in our scientific knowledge of the creatures that live in, on or around the sea.

The societies tagging program is directed by Graham MacMillan who has been tagging fish since 1950. He later pioneered and established sport angler participation. As a mark of the programs success is the fact that over 97,000 tags have been distributed to anglers participating in this volunteer program.

Also consider that the statistics on fish growth, distribution, ranges and migrations that are gathered by the ALS program have been recognized by the scientific community in a number of marine studies. The tag records were correlated to the results of the 1974 Schaefer Tournament and helped in the preparation of that years survey report showing population densities and distributions.



**With a wet ran over his head, this bass lies quietly. The tag has been inserted through the meat of his back above the spine, where it will do the least damage.**

Naturally, most of the tagging efforts are found on the East Coast, the ancestrial home of the striped bass. The San Fransisco Bay area is a big tagging center too. That's where some Jersey bass were successfully transplanted in 1879 and 1881.

ALS tags have been implanted in fish swimming in many foreign waters such as those off Norway, Equador, The Galapagos Islands, the Carribean, and in the Mediterranean Sea as well as in many Canadian and U.S. lakes and rivers.

Striped bass aren't the only fish being tagged. Species include tarpon, bonefish groper, snook, permit, shark, tuna, halibut, and even sea turtles as well as our own popular northeast gamefish.

The largest annual tagging occured in 1973 with over 10,000 fish tagged. '74 saw 5,300 taggings and only 3,100 in '75. Seems that the economy crunch saw more fish kept for the table, fewer releases and possibly less fishing in general.

Connecticut tagger. John Wells, has the largest number of returns with over 250 from some 3,000 tagged fish. Maine's Saco River plays host to angler Wes Eayrs tagging efforts. Wes has tagged over 200 stripers there and has returns from all the states from Maine to South Carolina, with the curious exception of Connecticut.

The average tag return figure runs to about eight percent. This low figure can be partly attributed to predation and mortality of tagged fish. Some tags are bitten off by the more voracious species, such as bluefish, that are attracted by the bright yellow tag. Other tags are discarded by commercial fishermen and sportsmen who don't recognize their value. And, in some instances, some tagged fish are re-released after a second capture.

Presently, the longest span of time for a tagged fish to be at large is six years. This bass was tagged near Southold. L.I. and recaptured at Seagirt N.J. the largest bass tagged was a 55 pounder that was later recaptured and re-released, still carrying the same tag.

Of course, bluefish and striped bass are the glamour species. But, with the return of the weakfish, that can change. Not enough weaks have been tagged yet. With the cyclical nature of this species, much more information is needed and tagging can provide that information. Unfortunately the weakfish is really delicious table fare, and I can't blame the anglers for their reluctance to release them.

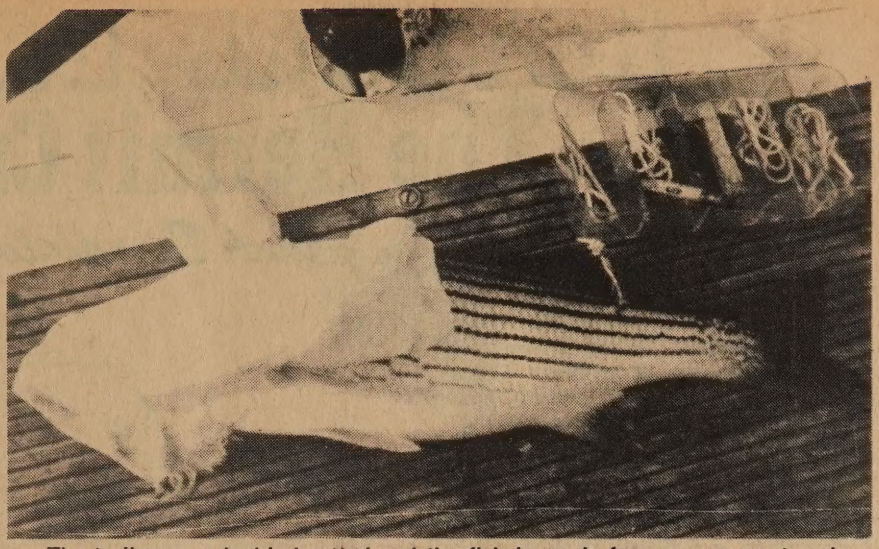
If you bring yourself to release a hard earned fish (aren't they all?), the actual tagging procedure is not difficult. The tag itself is a long tubular strip of "spaghetti" made of bright yellow plastic. On each tag is printed the legend "Return Littoral Society, Highlands, New Jersey" and a five digit number used to identify the individual tag. That same number is printed on one of the return cards provided in each tagging kit. The kit also contains a stainless steel insertion tube similar to an oversized hypodermic needle. One end of the tag is slipped into the tube and the needle point is pushed through the meat of the fish's back, behind the dorsal fin, and out the other side. A stopper knot is on the free end of the tag and will keep it from slipping right through the hole. Once the tag is in place and the insertion tube removed, simply tie a double overhand knot in the double plastic "spaghetti" and trim the trailers near the knot. Remember to leave some room in the loop so the fish can grow without damage and make sure the lettering on the tag is exposed. If left inside the fish's body, his enzymes will erase the letters and render the tag useless.

Record the weight, length and girth of the fish and get him back in the water as soon as possible.

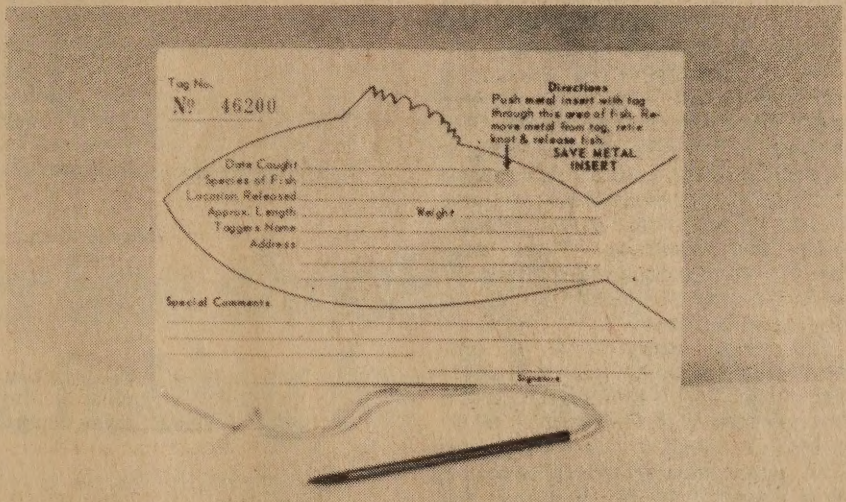
You should try to do as little damage as possible in handling fish while tagging and a release gaff is very useful during this procedure. This gaff is nothing more than a barbless big game hook of about 12/0 in size, mounted on the end of a short (12 to 16") handle. Almost any size fish can be controlled by slipping the gaff point through the thin membrane of the lower jaw and out the mouth with very little injury. This even works on bluefish, which aren't at all cooperative. In fact, as soon as a blue is lifted from the water he just hangs there.

Another good idea is to have your tags ready before hand. This is accomplished by making a tagging kit from a compartmented plastic box or a block of wood. The box is great for the beach or jetty fisherman or the guy who travels a lot. Everything you need is in a small package that can easily fit in a tackle box or jetty bag. A 3 x 5" card, taped to the inside of the box top can be used to record the weight, length and location caught for later transfer to the return cards. This will save the cards from possible water damage or loss while you're out fishing. The tag block, which is useful on boats, is just a rectangular piece of one inch thick wood with a series of 1/8" holes drilled almost all the way through. Tags, already in their insertion needles, are placed in the holes where they're available for instant use. A small piece of tape wrapped around each needle keeps everything from tangling

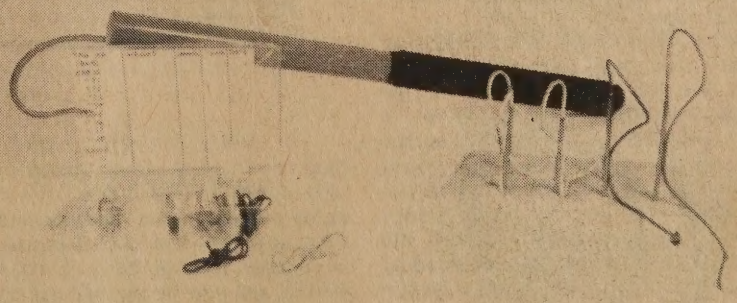
**(Continued on page 50.)**



**The trailers are double knotted and the fish is ready for measurement and release.**




**The return card has spaces for all the necessary information including comments on possible deformities. Note the stopper knot on free end of tag.**



**Tagging kits and release gaff are all you need to begin tagging. The card taped to the box top is handy for noting statistics of tagged fish. Tags in the wooden block are lightly taped to their needles to keep things organized.**

# NATURAL BAITS— The Hermit Crab

*by Frank Berrafato*

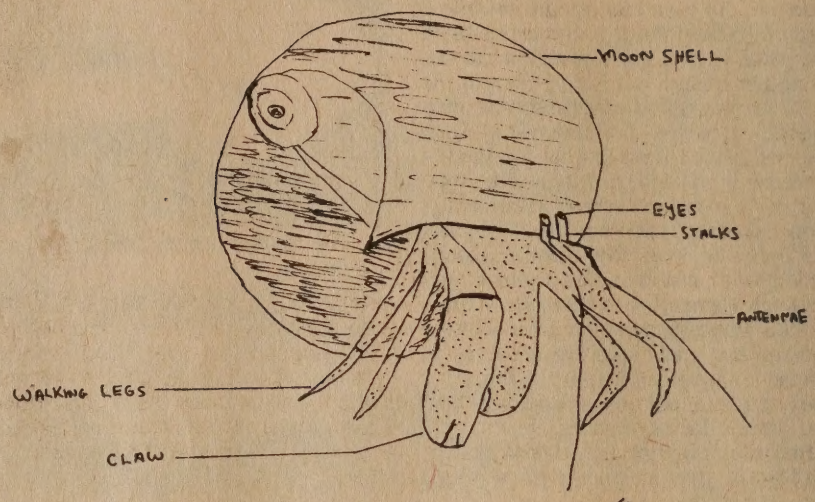
This writer first came upon the hermit crab by accident. When baitcasting several years ago at a North Shore beach, I spotted an odd looking shell with a claw sticking out of the opening. Upon closer inspection, I saw a small crab lodged inside the once empty shell. Not being able to pull the inhabitant out of his house, I cracked the shell, and found inside a crab with a small, soft body. I did not catch a blackfish with this particular crab, but I succeeded in later trips in enticing blackfish with this strange and little used natural bait.

Hermit crabs vary in size, and most of the crabs which I have encountered range from one to two inches. The carapace, of the hard shell covering, is the distinguishing feature which protects crab's back, and we see these protective shelters on such crabs as the fiddlers, calico, and blueclaws. These hard coverings are a natural part of the crab, but in the case of the hermit crab, his carapace is borrowed.

The hermit crab thrusts its soft, unprotected abdomen into the empty shell of some salt water mollusk, and it travels around with this empty shell on its back. It clings to the shell by the hooks on the end of its tail. If the shell it wants happens to be occupied, the hermit crab is not above killing and eating the rightful owner, and then taking possession.

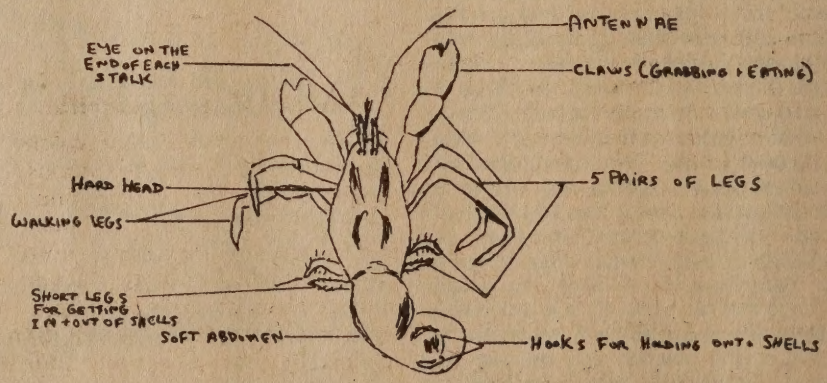
The hermit crab, like all other crabs, belongs to the decapod, or ten-legged (five pairs of legs), order of the crustacean family. The foremost pair are equipped with claws for grabbing food or for killing an enemy. (See illustration). The eyes are on the end of stalks which it can stick out or draw in at will.

The best time to get hermit crabs, or for that matter, most types of crabs, is at night. The seeming passivity of the various northern crabs, in general, is probably related to their need to escape the seagulls—their most persistent enemies. By day, the fisherman always has to search for the crabs. If not hidden deeply within the seaweeds, they are wedged in the deep recesses afforded by an overlapping rock, where they remain secure, in dim coolness, slowly waving their antennae and waiting for the return of the water. In darkness, when the tide is low, the hermit crabs are active and they can be seen bumping around on the mud, or in tidal pools, dragging their little shells around. Here, they can be easily picked up and later used for bait. After a storm, the hermit crabs, along with other natural baits (such as surf clams), are usually washed up on shore in prodigious numbers. Hermit crabs can also be baited to an area by using such tidbits as crushed clams or mussels.




HERMIT CRAB ON THE MOVE F.B.

FISHERMAN'S SKETCH OF THE HERMIT CRAB


ANTENNAE
EYE ON THE END OF EACH STALK
CLAWS (GRABBING + EATING)
HARD HEAD
5 PAIRS OF LEGS
WALKING LEGS
SHORT LEGS FOR GETTING IN + OUT OF SHELLS
SOFT ABDOMEN
HOOKS FOR HOLDING ONTO SHELLS

F.B.

Like the fiddler crabs and the sand moles, the hermit crab must be placed in a damp spot in order to survive for any amount of time. Damp seaweed placed in a container will keep the bait alive for many hours. More sophisticated containers can also be purchased or made by the fisherman—such as wire box where water can flow freely through the sides.

The hermit crab should be tied on the hook with nylon thread. Without such ties the bait will soon be picked loose and lost. But it is not necessary to knot

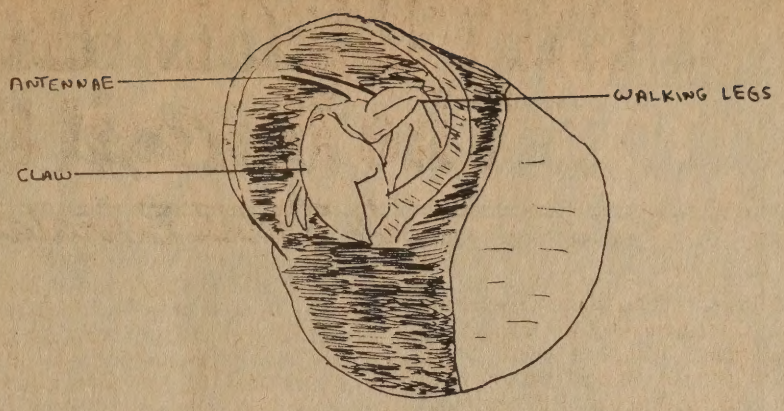
the thread. A length of thread is tied to the hook shank, and after the crab is impaled, the strand of thread is wound around it and the hook.

The shell of the hermit crab should be removed before using, and this can easily be done by cracking it. If you try to pull the crab out of his home by his claws, you will probably break him in half, with the soft part remaining inside. The large claws are then removed, and the entire crab is threaded on the hook by running it through the entire body starting at the high head and then into the soft tail portion. They can also be cut into pieces for smal fish, such as sea bass and snappers.

The hermit crab takes its place in the endless cycle of shoreline life—the intricate dependence of one species upon another. A predator and a scavenger, he will actively hunt small crabs, clams and tiny fish. But he is in turn actively sought by the whelks, who can open up any tightly closed clam or mollusk by drilling a hole right through the shell. Both the whelks and crabs themselves are constantly sought by the everpresent sea birds at the low tidal stage.

Among certain crabs, including the hermit crab, land forms are evolving. The purple clawed or land hermit is a species found in the Florida mangroves, and it is slightly larger than the hermit crabs common to the Long Island shorelines. The purple clawed hermit inhibits the strip above the highest tidal floatsam, where land vegetation fringes the shore, but in breeding season it moves down toward the sea.

The hermit crab is another one of the many natural baits available to the Long Island fisherman and more fishermen should be aware of these crabs and their potential use as fish attractors.




HERMIT CRAB WITHDRAW INSIDE OF SHELL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## The line you see is the line you control.

# ASK THE CAPTAIN

## OPINIONS & ANSWERS

## by Capt. Ronnie Lepper

**Question:** Louis Kowalski, Brightwaters

When fishing during the day how do you keep eels alive? A couple of hours is all I seem to get out of them. I keep them in a pail of water all the time.

*You left out whether or not the eels were potted or combed as combed eels will not last very long no matter how careful you are. To start with, always try to purchase potted eels as they will last indefinitely, if properly kept. I used to buy 300 potted eels at one time and keep them in an eel cart at my float. An occasional feeding of horseshoe crab and relatively clean water will assure you of good healthy eels at all times. While fishing keep the eels in a pail. At the bottom of the pail, keep a layer of seaweed or burlap. Cover the eels with another layer of burlap then put a layer of ice cubes or chipped ice on top of that. Holes in the bottom of the pail ARE A MUST to allow any build up of water to run off. Try your best to keep the whole thing out of the sun and avoid banging them around too much. This method not only keeps the eels in top condition but it also keeps them in a dormant state making hooking and handling much easier. When you remove them from the pail, they appear dead, but a few seconds in the water and they become wild. The unused eels will continue to thrive if replaced in the eel cart. One last bit of advice; never sell dead eels short as there are times when old roccus gets lazy and will refuse a lively eel only to engulf a dead one.*

**Question:** Hank Blundell, Lawrence

I have sold my 31 ft. boat this year as I have very little time to fish and I hate to waste it on boat repair and upkeep. I would like to start chartering making approximatelty one trip per week during the summer season. I have never chartered a boat before nor have I ever been part of a charter. There are a few questions pertaining to chartering that I need some assistance with. How early must I book a charter to assure myself of good dates? What is considered a fair price? How much do you tip the mate and what is the usual deposit. I have pretty good tackle and would like to use it if possible.

*Quite a few of the top boats start their booking as early as the year before. A lot of the regular charters will take a date for the following year as they are leaving the boat. Booking by January or February will usually assure you of a good date on a productive boat. Price is something that changes with location, type of fishing, quantity of passengers, boat size and appointments. To my knowledge, I have never heard of a legitimate charter boat over charging. You will most likely get more than you expected. Be careful of the bargain prices & guarantee type fishing. Tips are very controversial. When I am asked that question I have a standard answer which I will convey to you. If you were having dinner with two other couples [six passenger boat) at an average restaurant what would you tip the waitress? After agreeing on a figure think about it. A waitress gives you 5 minutes of her time during your total dinner period where a mate must service you for between 8 and 10 hours. If the mate is a good one and courteous to his people a 20 percent tip is not extravagent while a poor one deserves a lot less. My own mate is a licensed Captain who not only gives his all with a smile, but has come down to the boat hours earlier to fish for live bait from the dock on his own time so that the charter will be able to leave earlier. Deposits usually run around 50 percent of the charter price paid within a reasonable time. As for your tackle I can only speak for myself. If I feel that your tackle is adequate and in good condition, using it is alright with me except wire line outfits as here I prefer to use my own.*

**Question: Bernard Kasminoff, Jamaica Queens.**

While fishing the big Danny trolling plugs this spring I had lots of problems getting caught on the bottom. I followed all the information given on wire line fishing to the letter and still had bad luck. I used 100 ft. of wire for every 10 feet of water just as you suggested. I even remeasured my line to make sure it wasn't too long. It all checked out fine including the markers. I kept the same speed as you so I know that my problem was not going too slow. The only thing I succeeded in was watching you catch fish. Where did I go wrong?

*I'm really sorry to hear of your problem. If you would have come over to me while we were fishing I could have saved you a lot of aggravation. The figures given on wire lengths are rule of thumb approximations, not hard fact. Boat speed, type of lure and water conditions designate changes in these approximations. I have changed my wire length as many as three times on one ten minute run do to tide and wind conditions. Plugs will run deeper than most other lures, figure approximately 25 feet less wire using plugs as compared to tubes, spoons or umbrella rigs. In the future if we are fishing the same area and you have a problem feel free to come over. If I can help you I will.*

**Question: Tom Falsmen, Long Beach**

I would like to try bunker spoon fishing for striped bass this coming fall and need some advice on the finer points. What color spoon do you use, chrome or white? Should I paint the spoons any other color, as all I see at the sport shops are the two colors I mentioned? Should I change the hooks to stainless? And when do you feel is the best time to start looking for the fall migration of bass between Fire Island and Debs Inlet?

*First let me state that white is my favorite color by far and I have not used a chrome spoon in 20 years. There are other colors that will catch fish as gold, yellow, and even black, but none as well as white. I would say that 99.9 percent of all bass caught on spoons are taken on white ones. The 12.0 long shank that comes with the spoon may rust, but it's a lot stronger than stainless so leave it on the spoon. It seems that the bass fishing starts a little later every year. We used to start in September and did well, but now we start in October (mid month) and hope for the best. I would start as far East as possible as this is where they usually start first.*

*Question: Philip Cole, Far Rockaway*

Each season I see more extravagant and complicated umbrella rigs on the dealers shelves, some with up to 20 lures attached. I feel that the now scrawny looking 4 arm, 4 lure, 4 teaser rigs I bought two seasons ago may be obsolete. Must I go for the added expense of buying these rigs (prices up to $20) or are my old lures adequate? I can only fish one day a week and would like to use the most successfull lures.

*Stay with your old antiquated 4 arm rigs as they will do the job just as well*

*with a hell of lot less problems and less drag. All of the top fishermen I know use three or four arm rigs, the same as yours with excellent results. Try not to mix too many colors as the rainbow look does not catch as well as using the same or near the same color lures on all of the arms.*

*Question: Chris Lisa, East Meadow, NY*

I am planning a surf fishing trip to Montauk during the first week of October. I am hoping that you may be able to tell me of some of the good spots to fish there and what lures and bait to use. Thank You. P.S. I will mostly be fishing the south side and I do not have a buggy.

Answer:

*I I were you I would start fishing at the Fort (Air Force Base.) From this point you can walk to the left and fish Browns or walk to the right and fish Kings or a little further to Caswells. All of the areas I mentioned produce top catches of bass and blues in the fall. As far as lures are concerned, I would use poppers and top water swimmers as there are lots of rocks in the area. Dawn or dusk usually produces the best for someone that does not know the area well. Night fishing for the well informed. Watch out for those overcast days as bass have a habit of hitting the beach at any time of day.*

*Question: John Remson, Brooklyn*

Hi. I would like to know if you can tell me what is the best bait and tackle to use for flounder fishing off a bridge and what kind of methods to use to catch the flounder.

Answer:

*In all fairness to you, I suggest that you purchase a copy of "Fishing For Flounder" by Dr. Wm. Muller, available through the Long Island Fisherman. This very thorough and informative book covers all aspects of flounder fishing. I'm sure you will absorb a tremendous amount of worthwhile information after reading it. Bill has done some very extensive research and has come up with a lot of really good material that will definitely improve your catch.*

*Question: John Narcise, Bronx*

This season I am going shark fishing for the first time. I bought 14/0 hooks and single strand wire, steelon leader material too. Could you tell me what secret is used in making your own rigs? Are coast lockfast snap swivels good to use? And what method is used to bait the hook? My boat is at Fort Schulyer, Willets Point area. Could you tell me the best area?


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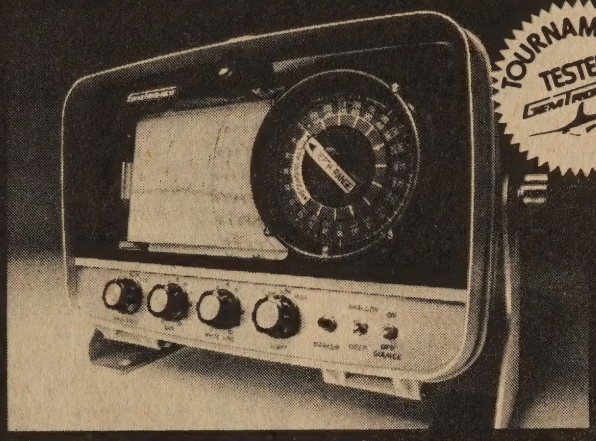


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# BIG TUNA From Small Boats

*by Ron Onorato*

I must admit, we got some awfully long looks from some of the big 40 foot plus sportfishing boats in the area as we dropped the hook from my 16 foot Boston Whaler to the bottom of the Mudhole. The 6 foot seas created by a stiff northeaster didn't exactly help our cause. Despite the horrendous conditions on that late September day, we managed over a dozen school tuna and twice as many albacore. This was to be repeated several times during the course of the late summer and early fall.

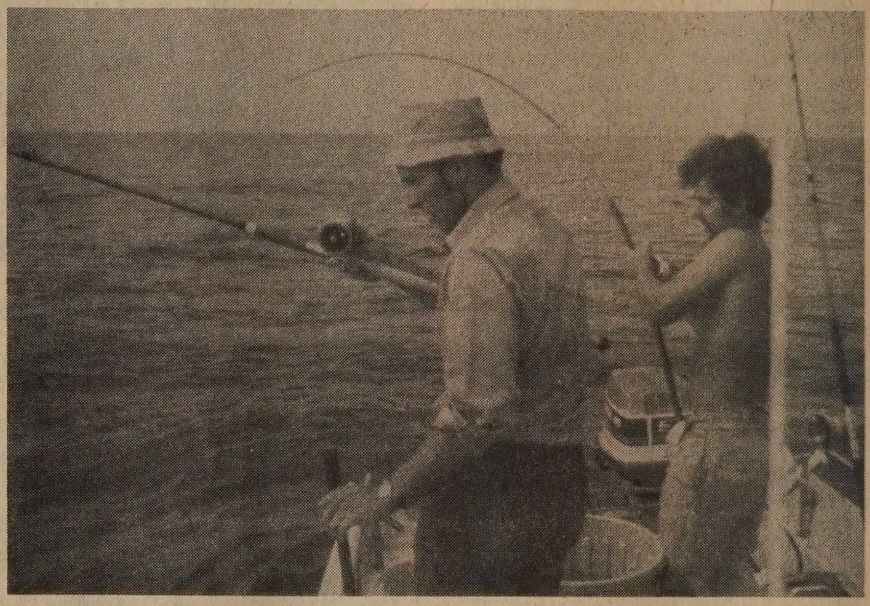
After several seasons of pretty dull tuna chumming, it was quite gratifying to see somewhat of a resurgence of school tuna return to the Mudhole. Quite a few tuna between 20 and 40 pounds showed up in the catches, leading to speculation that the new tuna regulations were having a positive effect on the stocks of younger fish.

The school tuna usually show up at a time when other fishing activity is on the quiet side. Mid-August to late September is about the peak time though the season may extend beyond this due to weather conditions. Last year, there were fish caught through the early part of October.

The fish that the average outboarders are concerned with are the school and slightly larger size tuna. Without a fighting chair and in a stand-up battle where it may be necessary to follow the fish, it is unlikely that fish over 200 pounds will be landed. It is not impossible, for in late in August last year, a 295 pound fish was taken by two fishermen in a 23 foot Mako. This is the exception rather then the rule however. Fish between 40 and 100 pounds are the ones most sought after, and most easily landed. With good tackle and experienced fishermen on board, fish between 100 and 200 pounds can be taken.

The Mudhole, (also known as 17 Fathoms or the BA buoy) lies about 18 miles south of Rockaway. On a good day weatherwise, any number of outboard boats will be fishing this area, especially if the fishing gets hot. However, for every properly equipped boat that fishes there, there is another boat that is lacking something along the line.

Any boat from 16 foot on up is capable of fishing the Mudhole when it is properly equipped. You will be fishing some 20 plus miles from home, and



**Author leans on tuna with a 20 lb. class outfit.**

when something goes wrong out there, you may be in trouble.

The first area where many outboarders run into trouble is with their anchor line, or lack of it. The depths of the mudhole will vary from 140 to as much as 250 feet, depending where you fish. On a calm day, the minimum amount of scope (ratio of anchor line to depth of water) is 3 to 1. On a rough day, the scope goes up to 5 to 1 ratio. An oversize anchor will help reduce the amount of scope somewhat, but not all together. On several occasions during sloppy conditions last season, some smaller rigs had to abort the trip, because they couldn't hold at anchor. Don't have less than 450 feet of anchor line when you go to the Mudhole.

The next biggest trouble area seems to be in accurately gauging the amount of fuel to bring along. Most small boat owners judge their mileage they get on their boats on a calm day, and fail to take into account the rough sea conditions that often arise. The only rule of thumb to follow is to bring more than you will ever think of using. That extra 6 or 12 gallons of gas is very securing to have with you.

Now to the actual fishing itself. Tuna fishing at the Mudhole is usually done by chumming with bunker chum, though there are some boats that prefer to troll for them. We still talk about chumming for fish while at anchor.

The most successful tuna fishermen are the ones who chum the heaviest and have a lot of patience. There will be a lot of boats in the area, and it is your job to get them near the boat. This calls for not only heaving chum, but also the use of a lot of chunk bait.

While bluefishing, a can of bunker chum may last three or more hours. If a can of bunker chum lasts more than 2 hours while tuna fishing, then you're under chumming. Trying to stretch out the chum is a waste of time. An all day trip for tuna will require about 4 cans of chum in addition to the chunk bait. When you first arrive on the grounds, which incidentally should be around dawn, go at the chumming heavily for about the first half hour, then ease off it a bit. Let the fish know you are there.

Perhaps the most crucial part of tuna chumiming is chunking the slick. Chunking is spicing the bunker chum slick with bits of cut bunker, mackerel, herring, whole smelts or spearing. These baits will hold the fish in your slick once they smell the bunker chum out.

Some bait dealers during the tuna run will sell a 5 gallon tin of cut bunker or mackerel to accomodate the tuna fisher-

man. If you can't find this, then you will have to get the bait whole and start cutting it up into chunks yourself. Just to give you an idea of what to do, this is what I'll take with me on an average 9 or 10 hour chumming trip. 4 cans of bunker chum, 25 pounds of mackerel, 25 pounds of bunker, 30 or 40 pounds of butterfish, and finally if available, a 5 gallon tin of spearing. Now you look at this and you get an idea of how expensive a tuna trip really is. This is on top of the gas bill too. Since we only make a couple of trips a year, it pays to go all the way.

Once on the grounds, start off just with a heavy dose of bunker chum for the first hour. Gradually add a ladleful of the chunk baits to the slicks in between the bunker chum. You will now have a nice steady stream of juicy tidbits and if there are any fish around, it shouldn't take too long before they find it out. Chumming is usually done from the stern of the boat. In order to minimize the mess, try to arrange it so that you have the chum in one can, chunks in another, spearing in a third can, so that way you can just go from can to can and ladle out the stuff.

As far as the baits go, you can use just about any of the chunk bait with results, though live baits sometimes gets the edge. The most popular and effective dead bait is a whole butterfish, or a whole tinker mackerel. In the live bait department, a live whiting or ling winched from the bottom will usually draw results.

Now that the chumming has been covered, on to the tackle. It took a little experimenting, but we finally settled on one outfit that we usually use when we go out. You have to keep in mind that you're dealing with or at least trying to deal with the smaller specimens of the tuna family. This is not trying to say that you can't hook a giant tuna, it's just about impossible to land one from an outboard. Gear your tackle to accumulate the smaller fish.

My favorite outfit is a 30 pound class rod with a 40 special Penn filled with 40 pound line. Without chasing the fish and with only the use of a harness, fish up to 156 pounds have been landed. It has enough beef to handle the slightly larger fish, yet still allows enough sport with the smaller fish. If a big fish is hooked, and there have been several occasions when this has happened, all we did was hang on until the fish stripped the reel. Chances are if he can't be stopped with that outfit, it will take a 9/0 or better and a fighting chair to nail the fish. At one time we went to 6/0's with 50 pound line, but found them to be quite cumbersome and heavy on smaller fish. If big fish seem to be showing up however, we will go to them.

There are two types of tuna hooks that are sold, one is the big game O'Shaugnessy model, and the other is the Eagle

(Continued on page 50.)

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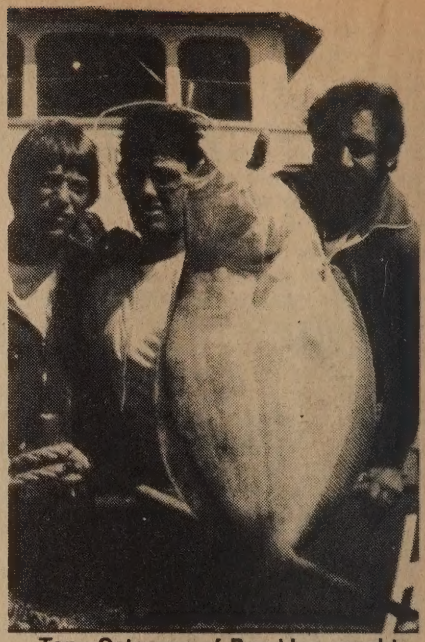
# MONTAUK REPORT

*by Scott Simons*

The weird weather of the past week has made for some real up and down fishing at the Point. Bluefishing was still sporadic during the week but showed signs of settling down on Friday and the weekend when catches were made consistently at the Submarine Buoy and Cartwright. Also a large number of blues taken on the southside wire lining in the steady downpour. Striped bass came to life on Sunday afternoon for the few lucky souls who had braved the weather. Thursday was reported as being one of the best days ever for Coxes Ledge, with over 100 cod taken. Fluke fishing remains consistently excellent when the weather conditions provided decent drifting. Fluke still strong in all the rips from No. Rips east to Midway, Pollack Rip, Inner and Outer Shagwong and large fish being taken in quantity on the southside off the radar station, Ditch Plains, the Town and west to Gurney's. Porgy fishing up and down, great one day and poor the next around the Point off Great Eastern and along the southside at Ditch Plains. Medium and large sea bass still very plentiful around the Point and the high ground south of the Point. Most numerous quantities of porgies still being taken at Guardiner's Island. Offshore still excellent with blues, browns and many makos. All boats report numerous sightings of white marlin, but none landed. One report of a blue marlin hooked and lost on a second jump. As this report was being made, Montauk was battening down for the expected hurricane. What effects this will have on the fishing no one knows.

Captain Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** reported that the shark fishing has been holding up well despite some of the recent weather and the boats are looking for the marlin to break loose any day now. On Friday, a dusky shark was taken along with a mako of 130 pounds. On Saturday one brown and a blue shark of 260 pounds was brought to gaff and a couple of blue sharks were also taken on Sunday despite the heavy rains. Warren said that he has had several responses from anglers that were interested in his special "open boat sharking" so he will continue booking for every Wednesday in August and September. Fare is $50 a man and you are guaranteed time on the rod. The idea is to give those who are interested in trying their hand monster fishing but could never get up a six man charter a chance to split up the day with other anglers. Call for reservations which are a must. 668-3343.



**Tony Catapano of Brooklyn caught this 10 lb. fluke aboard the "Helen II" out of Montauk.**

Captain Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** called to tell us of the excellent two day shark trip he made during the week. A lot of brown sharks in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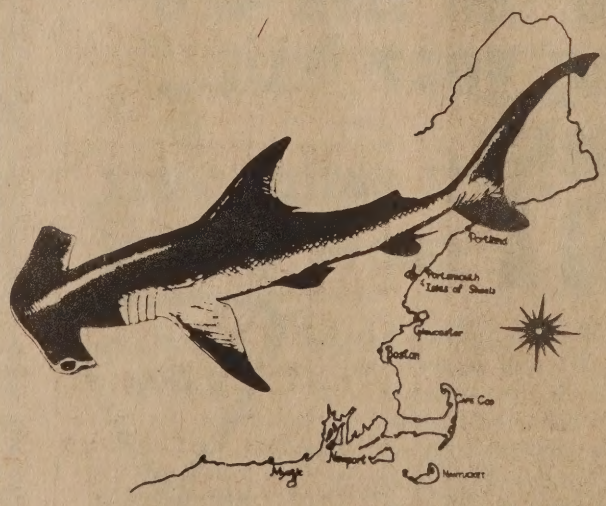


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**Al Kelly of East Rockaway took the entire pool with this 51 lb. cod he took aboard the "Viking Star".**

the 50 to 80 pound range were taken along with a dusky of 371 pounds and a 150 pound mako shark taken by Barry Young and friend Lee Kaufman. Two blue sharks in the 200 plus pound range were taken. A party of New York's Finest headed by Messina and O'Brian took a 219 lb. mako shark aboard the boat fishing south/southwest of the point 21 miles out. Paul said that he still had a few openings in September when the sharking is very good for the big ones and the giant tuna are around.

Two issues ago, a typographical error turned the report for the **Gone Fishing Marina's** newly renovated launching ramp into a nightmare. Instead of reading "the ramp is now the best at Montauk" the word NOW came out NOT. Sorry 'bout that. Ronnie D'Albora reported that the boats launching from the BEST ramp at Montauk are loading up on fluke at Inner Shagwong and can 5, and a few of the locals are taking some large doormats drifting east of the Outer Shagwong buoys. Some porgies and sea bass are within range at Outer Shagwong also. Snappers by the zillions in Montauk Lake. Fun fishing for the kids as bait.

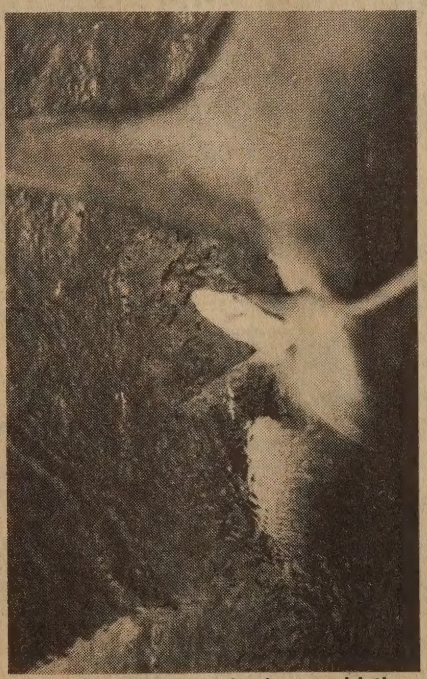
Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that the porgy fishing around the Point was very slow during the week and Thursday was the slowest yet. So on Saturday he returned to the excellent fishing he had left at Guardiner's Island. John Murchison was high-hook with 67 porgies on Friday and Roddy Filder of the Bronx was high-hooker on Sunday with 65 fish. Fishing on Saturday was down due to the wind.

Captain Ronnie Grandinetti of the **Julie III** had five members of the N.Y.C. Transit Authority led by Marty Schwartz and Freddie Johnson out on Saturday and they bagged 150 fluke up to 5½ pounds, 2 weakfish and one bluefish. Fishing was concentrated on the south side.

Captain John Sweetman of the charterboat **Ebb Tide** gave us the first confirmed report of bluefish being taken at Cartwright. On a half day trip on Friday 48 blues 10 to 15 pounds were taken in a few hours using herring then diamond jigs when the bait ran out. John said that the diamond jigs worked just as good as the herring. Offshore fishing for sharks has remained very good as the weather cooperated.

This Sunday I moped around all day waiting for a "hole" in the rain so that I coule run out to the Submarine Buoy to see if the bluefish were socked in there yet. Finally leaving the dock about 6 P.M. I took 15 blues on Ava diamong jigs before the weather scared me when I noticed what was closing in. The bluefish are now stacked up ten high on the slope and on the shelf itself and should be settled down now unless the hurricane does something.

Captain Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** reported that this past Thursday was one of the best days in memory at Coxes Ledge. Over 1000 codfish were boated, and it took three mates shucking clams constantly to keep up with the demand for bait. Many, many cod were in the 30 to 40 pound range and the pooler was in the fifties. Up to 18 and 19 fish per man was not unusual, and low man was a good 4 or 5 fish. Bluefishing has been very good south of Block Island around Shark's Ledge with all the fish in the 10 to 12 lb. range. Enough fish are now in the area



**This 284 lb. blue shark gave birth to 43 baby sharks while tail roped to the boat. 3 of the babies were unborn and out of the other 40, 1 was born head first the rest were born tail first. Photo courtesy of Star Island Yacht Club.**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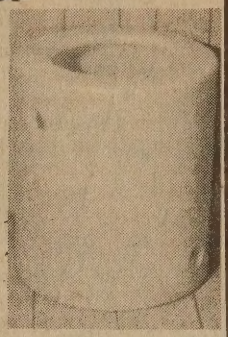

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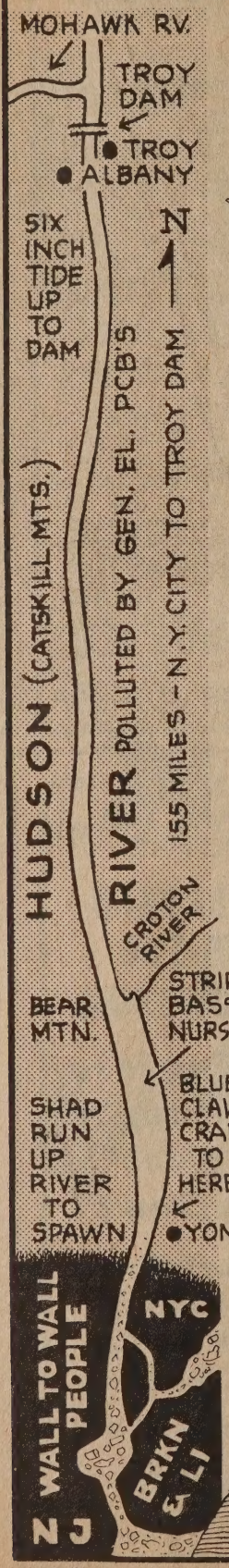


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**GOLDFISH** OK TO CATCH

THIS ARTICLE BASED ON RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER PETER A. A. BERLE OF N.Y. STATE

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I DON'T GET NO RESPECT!

BY FRED GUARDINEER

**Joe Petrotta took this 38 lb. cod while fishing aboard the "Peconic Queen III".**

for things to settle down and provide good, consistent fishing.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club,** Montauk's largest marina, reported that the bluefishing is on the upswing. Offshore is holding up and fluke are steady. Grandaughter Missy Hunt, 3 years old, had 'em talking at the marina when she hooked and landed a 4½ oz. snapper fishing with daddy Ian 20 feet west of the dock in six feet of water on a rigged spearing. When asked how it felt to catch her first fish ever, she replied, "sli-i-my." Newly arrived from Connecticut Donald McEwan and his boat "Blackfin" has been making waves in the marina with his catches of bluefish. Hearing fishing was spotty, Don fished at a secret location east of the point (Way east) and took 35 big blues on Friday and 15 blues on Thursday, all in only a few hours of trolling. Ray and Tim Harrington were aboard. Captain Vincent Tritto of the "Kada" took a 243 lb. mako shark on Wednesday that made 6 jumps. Forth Fathoms 175 degrees has been the hot mako area. Fluke are very thick at Inner Shagwong although somewhat on the small size by Montauk standards. On Friday Captain Dave McMahon of the "Marie II" took 45 bluefish for a party trolling around the Point. On Saturday, Captain Mike Desmond of the "Stor Fisk" took a 100 lb. tiger shark and a 150 lb. blue shark and lost several fishing 30 to 35 miles south of the Point in 260 feet of water. On Tuesday, he had a blue marlin estimated at 300 pounds come into the chum slick, take a bait, make two jumps and throw the hook. At the same time a mako shark hit a Heiniken bottle being used as a teaser/float and got himself wrapped in the line good enough to be landed. Sounds like a good commercial. Captain Igneri of the "Pequod" braved the torrential monsoon rains of Sunday

**Mike Shoenberg caught this 200 lb. blue shark while fishing aboard the charterboat "Free Spirit". The monster was taken on 30 lb. test after a 2 ½ hour battle.**


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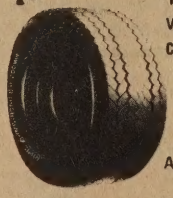

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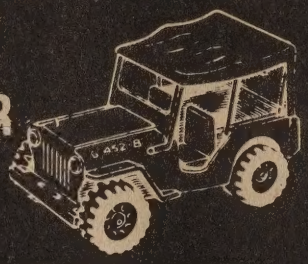

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afternoon to troll under the light and took 3 nice bass and eight bluefish in a short time. Captain Bill Mason of the "Sue Jac" also found feeding striped bass during the storm, and I also saw several nice catches that came into the Inlet Marina, where most of the local inshore sharpies dock.

During the past week the charterboat **Cherokee** had some great fishing trips. One was a shark trip with Vince Vescoria and his friend, who hooked 11 sharks and brought them to the boat, releasing all but two browns, 2 blues and a tiger. The tiger shark is being mounted as a remembrance of the fine trip. The Captain also reported fantastic bluefishing at the southeast Light at Block Island, bringing in 52 of the monsters in one trip. On Saturday's shark trip. G. Scirbba and friends were aboard and took three brown sharks in 1½ hours from 125 to 175 pounds. The excellent shark fishing for the **Cherokee** has been taking place 25 miles south of the Point in 180 feet of water. It seems that the water temperature is just right now for good sharking.

Captain Frank Macaro of the charterboat **Free Spirit** called to tell us that he has been doing well with shark this past week, fishing 205 feet of water where he ran into blue brown and duskies. Don Null of **Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle** took a 255 lb. blue shark on 40 pound test on Monday. A 125 lb. brown shark was boated. Wednesday was like a lake and at 240 foot of water the slick was invaded by loads of big red squid which would pounce upon and devour the mackerel baits. The charter netted 10 plus a balao and trolled, coming up with 1 white marlin on a 25 pound rig which jumped seven times and threw the hook, but they finally landed a 45 lb. white marlin on a rigged balao. The water was full of balao and red squid and the billfish and shark were going for them. The squids were from 2 to 1½ feet long. Frank asked us to announce that starting in September he will be giving a 5 point Captain's Course which lasts 12 weeks featuring instructions in obtaining a license, in depth navigation with modern electronics, fishing tips for local waters plus Montauk Sharking, Tax advantages, and how to set up a charter business and also the physcology of chartering. Frank says for further information to call 516-929-4881.

**Anthony Curto of Ozone Park caught this 32 lb. striper on bunker in the Rockaway surf. Subscriber Club Photo.**

# SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

**Fishing reports note**

Due to the onset of the approaching hurricane Belle the following reports from Shinnecock to Moriches Bays will be skimpy. Many Stations were called but all were very busy attending to their own and customers boats and property in order to safe guard them. In general the fluke fishing remained as it was the previous week but the weekends were poor due to the onset of the hurricane.

## PROMISED LAND

**Promised Land Fishing Station** reports fluke fishing has taken a turn around. There are still a lot of fish being caught with many more throwbacks than usual. Even so a decent catch can be had by the diligent and persistent angler. This is due to a new body of fish that have just recently moved into the area. Porgies are scarrted throughout the area and good catches have been had in Cherry Harbor. Art says the morning tide seems best.

## THREE MILE HARBOR

Bill Cox at **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reports big porgies up to 2 lbs. have been taken at Cedar Point. A few weaks have been taken on the High Hook baited with squid. The low hook should have clam on it for the big porgies. Fluke is starting to slow from Gardiner's to buoy 2. Fair catches can be had by anglers working the area diligently.

## SAG HARBOR

Helen at **Noyac Marina** reports catches of weaks, porgies and kings. On Saturday Les Brown took 12 weaks off Long Beach using sand worms. On Wednesday, Felix Weingart with his sons Mike and Jeff took 10 weaks to 4 lbs., 5 kings and 20 porgies. They fished with squid from buoy 16 to the Monastery.

## SHINNECOCK

The **Captain Clark Boats** continue to have excellent fishing for the weakfish and porgies in Peconic Bay. On Wednesday the man and wife team of Bill and Marie Hediger had 24 weakfish 1 to 2½ pounds in addition to their catch of porgies and 6 kingfish. The porgy fishing is excellent on the local wrecks on the southside of National and the weakfish are being taken at the Middle Grounds and east of Nassau Point.


THE SAND...
THE SUN...THE SURF...AND THE
STATION WITH SPIRIT

WGLI HITS THE BEACH

Every Saturday...all summer long...WGLI will broadcast directly from Babylon's Cedar Beach Overlook from sunrise till 7 pm. Come down and join us. We'll help you get there with special traffic and parking reports. We'll keep you up-to-date with marine forecasts, surfing conditions and special bulletins every quarter-hour of the day. And we'll continue to play the music you like to swim to or tan by.

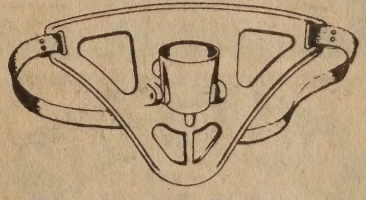
*It's our season in the sun...come join us!*

WGLI



*The Long Island*
**FISHERMAN**
**FISHING TRIP**
**CONTEST**

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



★ *Bonus Prize* ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

**LAST WEEK'S WINNER:**
Joe Pam of West New York, N.J. called into become this week's winner. He has been sent a check for $30 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard the Viking Star.

**THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:**
97-JF

**Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:**

| MONTAUK | CAPTREE | SHEEPSHEAD BAY | NORTH SHORE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Viking Star | Speedy VI | Amberjack IV | Port Jeff Ace |
| Peconic Queen III | Capt. Ben Litwin | Chief | Betty W |
| Marlin III | Capt. Joseph Fleet | FREEPORT Aloma II | |

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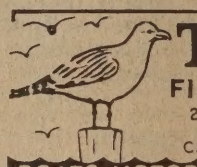

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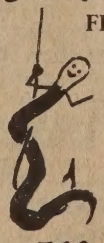

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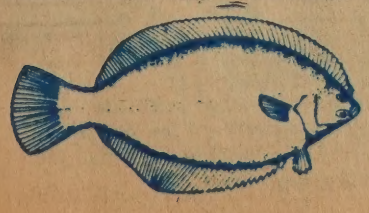

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Chick Behringer caught this 25 lb. 8 oz. bass at the Sore Thumb on eels during flood tide. Photo courtesy of The Store.

## HAMPTON BAYS

**Tony's Fishing Station** (UP TO HIS EYEBALLS taking care of his customers boats) took time out to report that during the week the Basket area had very good fluke fishing. Most of this was done with fresh bait. Flounders were also good at buoy 18 and the Orange Balls.

## MORICHES BAY

**Tadsens Fishing Station** said fishing slowed in midweek but picked up very well on Sunday.

**Cerullo Brothers Fishing Station** reports a doormat fluke of 20 lbs. was picked up Sunday morning by Chris Stueben of Westchester. He took this 35 inch long fluke in the West Cut using live killy. This is the largest fluke that has been taken so far this season on Long Island. This is not Chris's first large fluke in the previous 3 years he has taken a 17¾ lb. 18½ lb. and in 1975 a 19 lb. fluke.

## SAYVILLE

**Young's Fishing Station** informs us that regulars Al Morgan, Doc Pine, and Jack Miller once again took their toll on the weakfish population on Saturday, bagging 105 weaks on squid and Salty Dogs at buoy 24. Good fluking and kingfish action is now at Heckscher and Ocean Beach on squid and clam.

## WEST SAYVILLE

**American Sportsmen Shop** reports fluke at West Island on squid and shiners. Weakfish in the early morning off Sayville and Brown's River on bunker and butterfish. Crabbing very good off the docks and in the flats, with snappers in but small. Lots of marlin spotted offshore and two were reportedly taken on Wednesday.

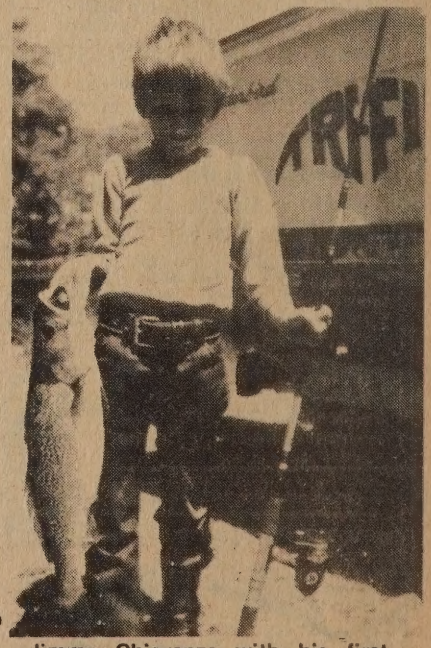
Vito at **So. Bay Fishing Station** gave us a brief report while preparing for Monday's hurricane, saying that lots of weaks, kings and fluke have been taken this past week between buoys 29 and 30 on squid, sand eels, killies and clam for the weaks. Crabs and snappers are affording a lot of action.

## OAKDALE

**Howie's Fishing Station** tells us that "Frum Frum" and the Thompson boys got good mixed bags of porgies, weaks, kings and 37 blowfish at buoy 12 Tuesday on squid, and clam. On Wednesday, a similiar mixed bag was taken by angler Don Raynor.

## BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** informs us of fluke on the outside from the pound nets east of the inlet to the pipeline on smelts, spearing and squid. Bluefish are also around the pipeline for chummers and jiggers. East of the inlet, blues are being taken from Patchogue to Cherry Grove on umbrellas and on chum. The Captree boats have been chumming a lot of blues this past week.



Jimmy Chiarenza with his first weakfish weighing 5 lbs. caught on a Tri-Fin Whiptail outside the Nessiquogue River.

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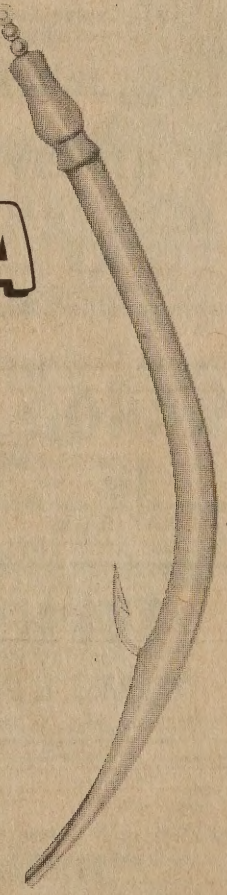

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Blues and fluke have been taken from Steamboat Channel with mainly chum and butterfish on the blues and squid and sand eels for the fluke. Big bass on the Kismet Reef according to a skin diver keeping company with big pods of blackfish. Crabbing is good and the snappers are in strong off the bulkheads and in the creeks. Kingfish on sandworms at the Bayshore Marina along with eels from the docks. Weakfish in the deep hole in front of the lighthouse on live snappers. Big weakfish being taken on A-27 jigs on the outside along with bluefish. Fluke on the outside from the head buoy to the beach.

## CAPTREE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Lady Ann** reported that the "bluefishing at night is fantastic and good during the day trips. The fish are all big and the action has been very consistent." Every day trip produces between 40 and 150 blues, and the night trips are a real slaughter. On Friday night 300 blues 7 to 11 pounds were boated and over 300 fish 9 to 14 pounds came over the rails on Saturday's night trip. The hot area has been 1½ hours ride from the inlet five miles off the beach of Patchogue. Neil said that the fluke fishing has also been fantastic from the bridge to the inlet.

The **Captain Rod** virtually slaughtered the fluke around the inlet Sunday despite the torrential downpour of rain. The fluking has been very good and consistent with the majority of fish keepers.

The **Captain Scotty** reported average daily catches of 200 fluke being taken outside the inlet with the fish in the 2 to 4 lb. range. Saturday and Sunday were super fishing, with 360 fluke for 13 men on Saturday and 180 for 7 men on Sunday. Bluefishing has been super good at night off Cherry Grove and east in 95 to 100 feet of water. High hook on Saturday was 47 bluefish 8 to 12 lbs. and larger.

## BABYLON

Richie at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** tells us that Dennis O'Connor brought in 14 fluke taken by the sore thumb on Aug. 4th on sand eels and spearing on incoming tide, just around the sand bar. Pete Hernly had 10 blacks and 4 fluke under the second bridge near the Coast Guard Station, all on smelts on Aug. 5th. Six bushels of crabs were the reward for 3 crabbers the night of Aug. 2nd, taken from the Fox creek flats.

**Charlie's Fishing Station** reports good fluking in Fox Creek at the State Channel on sand eels and squid. Lots of blue claws in nets and traps, mainly nets. Snapper fishing is picking up on spearing and an occasional weak or sea bass is being brought in from Fox Creek.

## LINDENHURST

The open boat **Sea Horse** tells us that fluking has been very good this past week with Friday hitting the excellent


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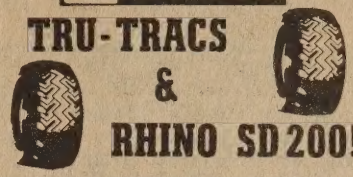

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mark, working from the bridge to the outer bar. Fish are averaging about 2½ pounds. Friday's hi-hook of 18 fish was a highlight with the average being 7 to 8 per man. The **Sea Horse** is starting open boat night crabbing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, sailing at 8:30 P.M. Captain Tom says bring your own nets with the longer the handle the better.

## AMITYVILLE

**George Combs Bait and Tackle** reports blues are being trolled at 45 feet of water on tubes and also being taken on chum and bunker chunks. Bass fishing has picked up considerably in the mouth of Zach's Bay through Tobay drifting eels and on clam belly chum with the belly on the hook. Weakfish at West Island and Fire Island Inlet on squid or on sand worms. Also try live or fresh dead bunker. Fluking continues to be good and even George got a 5½ pounder this past week. Snappers and crabs are pleasing anglers at the docks and on the flats. There are blowfish in the bay hitting small clam baits. Porgies and sea bass are also being taken at the Goose Creek area. Ten weakfish up to 12 pounds were taken by one angler at the Sore Thumb on live bunker and live snappers.

## SEAFORD

**Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle** reports plenty of fluke at Goose Creek, Four Corners, Wanser's Cut and West Island on sand eels, squid and spearing. This fishing is from fair to good. Weaks at the second and third bridge at night on sad worms fished on the bottom on a long leader about 3 feet over the sinker. A lot of bass being chummed in the bay and Lon picked up four schoolies while chumming in the measured mile during a weekday this past week. One customer plugged three bass Sunday eve on poppers, five, 11 and 18 pounds at the 3rd bridge. Crabs very good at all bulkheads and on the Massapequa flats. Super crabbing. Snappers are all over th place. Good fishing action if you know what you are doing and put in the hours, with the best being the first two hours of outgoing.

**Salice Boat Basin** reports lots of fluke around with an 8 pounder and 4 pounder taken off Florence Beach this week on squid and killy combos. Four corners is also producing well. Weakfish from 4 to 8 pounds are being taken on fluke rigs while stripers are being chummed at the 2nd bridge and Black Banks.

### BELLMORE

Roy at **Merrrick Marine Supplies** reports that he has been having good action plugging bass mornings and eves, with the best being at sunrise on Silver


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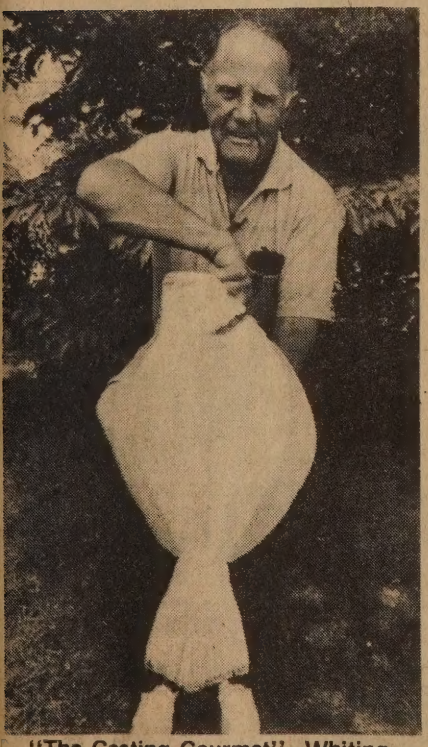
Creek Chub poppers in the ¼ oz. and ⅜ oz. sizes. The State Channel and creeks, namely Haunts Creek are producing schoolies of up to 12 pounds. 1 monster straightened the hooks out on one of Roy's plugs, causing him a good deal of agitita. Fluking has been good in Swift Creek and in Jones Inlet.

## MERRICK

On Saturday LIF staffer **Stu Miller** once again had the infamous G. Korn out in Stu's tin boat on yet another fluking expedition. Korn, wearing one of his ridiculous t-shirts with a picture of a honey-bee on the front, along with an equally jerky hat by some miracle caught 2 keeper fluke and two small flounder. The flounder were taken in swift creek. Stu had 4 keeper fluke. The fluke were taken drifting Row Boat Alley in a south north drift using squid and sea robin bellies for bait. It is to be noted that once again G. Korn did not fall into the water.



**"The Casting Gourmet", Whiting Evans with a 7¼ lb. fluke he caught on a squid strip and sand eel combo. The fish was taken near Port Jefferson and weighed in at Larry's Bait and Tackle.**

# N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

## FREEPORT

**The Lucky Strike III** had the Glenn Yee Group from N.Y.C. out on a fluke trip. They fished on the outside by the pipeline and caught 43 keeper fluke using sand eels and squid. Captain Dave Pigott said that he had all kinds of readings on his recorder. There were lots of small spots in mid water indicating possible concentration of bluefish. None of these fish could be taken.

Captain Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma II** said that during the week they fished at the pipeline and took numerous 3 and 4 pound fluke. On Thursday he had a whopper of a 7 pounder.

The **Aloma** has had steady porgy fishing at all the local wrecks. This fishing looks good and should continue at its present rate.

The **Captain Al** said the bluefishing has improved over the past few weeks. They are now jigging 3 to 6 pound bluefish about 15 minutes south of the inlet.

The **Capt. II** has had fair fluke fishing on their half day trips. Children under 12 pay a $5 fare which includes bait.

The **Miss Freeport** reports real good fluke fishing all week at the pipeline. Lately the fish are bigger.

**The Captain Lou II** reports fluking "pretty good" out in the ocean but due to weather on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, had to stay on the inside but still did pretty well. Lou says the fluke are around, come on down and catch your fillets.

Mike at **Hudson Point Fishing Station** reports blues showed up on Saturday at the 50 foot mark south of the tower and were hitting umbrellas and tubes on wire. Fluking are holding up well in Fundy and Reynolds Channel, with small porgies at the Meadowbrook Bridge on clam.

Bob at **Hook Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle** tells of fluke in the inlet, at the outfall pipe and in Baldwin Bay at Sea Dog Creek on squid, killies and sand eels. Weakfish have been hitting jigs and bananas just outside the inlet. Stripers and weaks at the Meadowbrook Bridge in the eves on bunker, and live eel.

## POINT LOOKOUT

**Scottie's Marina** reports fluke fishing still good outside of Jones Inlet and off Gilgo Beach. There are quite a few 3 to 6 pound fluke being taken and Andy

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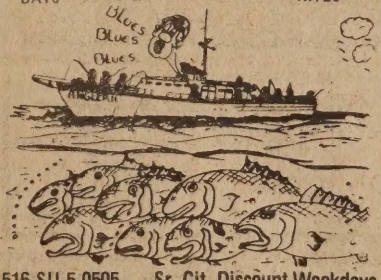


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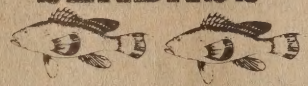

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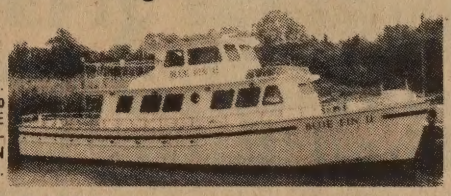
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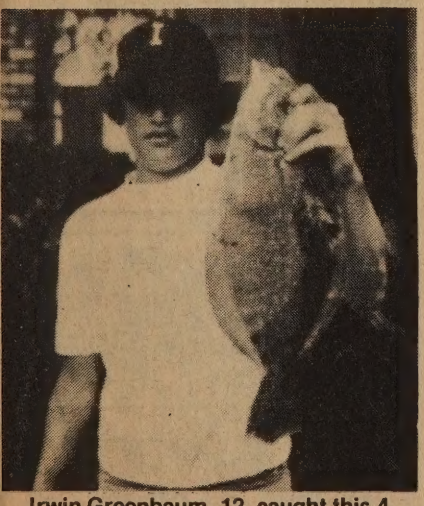

**Irwin Greenbaum, 12, caught this 4 lb. 2 oz. fluke on a sand eel and squid combo at Swift Creek. Photo courtesy of Merrick Marine Supply**

advises one of the best baits is live snappers if you can get them. Fluke are also available at the Point Lookout or Meadowbrook bridges. These fish are somewhat smaller in size and possibly more throwbacks. One to three pound blackfish are also available at these bridges and on the outside at the Rota and Tea Wrecks. Snappers are just fun fishing right now as they are only 5 inches long. The Mud Hole and Klondike are where the blues are most prevanent at present. Some have been taken off Lido in 32 to 44 feet of water trolling on top.

**The Marie III** had a fair days fluking on Saturday at the pipeline with fish up to 3 pounds. On Sunday the **Marie III** fluked on outside wrecks for a catch of 3 dozen fat fluke ranging from 1½ to 7 pounds, with an average of 4 pounds. This was in Sunday's rainstorm. 8 bluefish to 4 pounds were also trolled along with one bonita on anything red from the tower to the inlet.

## ISLAND PARK

Good bluefishing at Jones Inlet according to **Beckman's Tackle** in Lynbrook. These 3 to 5 pound blues were trolled Friday and Saturday on Bingle umbrella rigs or tubes. Fluke are very productive even though there is a high ratio of throwbacks. These keeper fish are somewhat larger in size right now. Striped bass fishing from the beach is good to excellent at the Rockaways, Atlantic Beach, and at West End Jones. These are 7 to 12 pound fish that are taken primarily on Stan Gibbs Pencil poppers. Snappers are still fun fish not yet ready for eating. The Oceanside creek has good crabbing.

## ATLANTIC BEACH

A trip was made by your reporter with Frank Hunter of **ICP Marine** early Wednesday morning out to Cholera. In this lake like setting all that happened was that one very dumb weakfish committed suicide by impaling its gills on a swinging hook of Frank's A-27 jig. Frank's co-worker Burnie helped pass the time while waiting for fish by giving a one man exhibition of his leather carving on belts and wallets.

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the **Atlantic Beach Charter and Guide Boat Fleet** and the **Kim** tells us that only a few makos were taken during the week. Jessie York lost a big mako estimated at 500 pounds which he fought for two hours from the boat "JJ". "Challenge" had a 204 lb. mako on Saturday at the ba buoy. Fluking has slowed with the northeast winds. A few bass and blues have been trolled on umbrellas off the Breezy Point jetty, but nothing to get excited about.

## JAMAICA BAY

Craig at the **Yellow Shed Bait and Tackle** reports quite good striped bass fishing at the Marine Parkway Bridge using sandworms. Weakfish have also been taken there and both these species are best taken at night. The So. Channel Bridge has fluke, striped bass and porgies while at the No. Channel bridge there are porgies, and snappers. A few small striped bass and blues have also been taken at the No. Channel Bridge. Crabbing is good at this bridge.

## SHEEPSHEAD BAY

**Salvo's Bait and Tackle** reports the kids are having a ball with porgies and snappers and some fluke from the Coney Island to the 69th St. Piers. Boats driftig sandworms at Norton's Point, the Verranzano Bridge and on the Staten Island side are picking up 3 to 8 pound weakfish. Blues and striped bass in this area is slow at present.

Neil at **Stella Maris** reports good striped bass trolling at the Tin Can Grounds. These school bass have been taken on trolled bucktails. Blues are at Norton's Point and are of mixed sizes that have been taken on jigs. The Rockaways off of Playland has produced a fair amount of weaks on Salty Dogs or squid bait or trolled on small bucktails. Fluke fishing can best be said is steady.

**The Zephyr** reports continuing very good action on porgies with blackfish mixed in and in the afternoon weaks and blues are being taken in good numbers. Captain Butch says it looks like the

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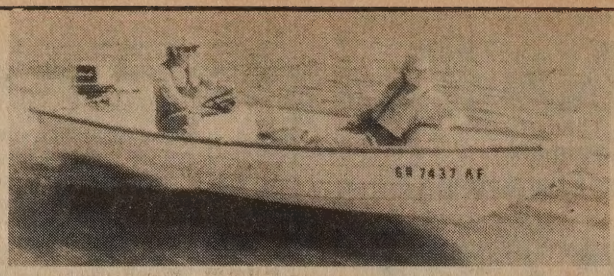

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J.J. BURCK, Inc., 526 City Island Ave., City Island, N.Y. (212)885-1559
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& HAS PUT LOW LOW
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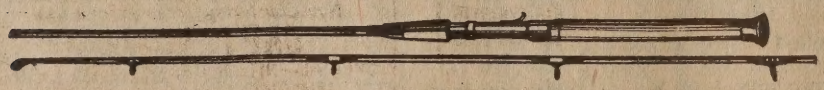

CAPTREE

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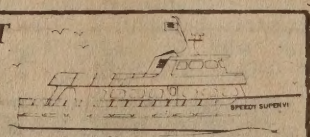
SPEEDY VI



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BLUES! 7P.M. EVERY NIGHT

porgies are taking hold as he works the Sea Bright area.

The **Eagle** reports it was a tough week but that by Saturday the fluking had returned to somewhat normal fishing Ambrose Channel at buoys 2, 4 and 6 with some blackfish mixed in. The expected storm on Monday night will hopefully give the fluke action and blue action a boost.

The **Dorothy B** reports fluke fishing picked up late Sunday afternoon off Playland. The fluke fishing has been up and down during the week but the pool fish ran 4 pounds. The **Helen H** says that during the week bluefishing has slowed and they are anticipating a new school of fish to move in shortly.

The **Chief** reports good fluke fishing up until Friday. On Saturday it was just fair and he had no report for Sunday.

## STATEN ISLAND

The hot news from **Santo's Sport Shop** is the 33½ pound striped bass taken by Harry Deisley on Sunday morning. He used cut bunker fished from the bulkhead of Great Kills Park while bluefishing. Striped bass fishing still remains steady at Penny Beach with the usual amount of throwbacks. The surf fishermen has come to the point in fluke fishing where there are more throwbacks than keepers. Boats are faring better at Chapel Hill, and Flynn's Knoll for these flatties. There are school blues ranging from Fort Wadsworth to Tottenville. In the same area sand porgies and Lafayettes can be taken on worms. The surf fishermen has been picking up a few weaks at Great Kills Park in the Harbor. Ed Klammer had a 7 pound 6 ounce weak that took a worm from the rock jetty. Meanwhile Lenny and his friends fished off Mt. Loretta and took quite a few weakfish. From the home dock to buoy 4 there are 4 pound bluefish which are being taken by the Gorilla rigs. Striped bass to 30 pounds have been taken from So. Beach to Hoffman Island with live bunker, but this fishing is very slow. Lenny says your best bet is weakfishing at present.

**Bob Semler and crew and their catch of 2 bass, 2 weaks and 23 blues while fishing aboard the "Pina III."**

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7 A.M.

8 A.M.

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# NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

## SOUTHOLD

**Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports that Southold Bay has small porgies but on Sunday larger ones were taken. The usual areas such as buoy 17, the Brickyard and South Ferry are all good spots for these fish. Weaks this past week have been just fair and are being taken in the Brickyard along with the larger porgies. On the Sound side at the Orient Point Station fluke is OK. Sea bass, porgies and small blacks of 1 to 3 lbs. are also being taken in the usual spots on the North Shore.

## JAMESPORT

**Warren's Tackle Center** in Aquebogue reports weak fish are being taken on whole sand worm on a high hook while porgies are taken clams on the lower. Snappers of 4 to 5 inches are in most riveers and creeks but have yet to reach eating size. In Long Island Sound blue fish of 4 to 8 lbs. have been trolled on umbrella rigs and tubes off Roanoke Point.

## MT. SINAI HARBOR

In between preprations for the oncoming hurricane **Ralph's Fishing Station** said the fluke fishing was very good. Many of these are 2 to 4 lb. fish that are picked up 50 to 100 yards off the beach. Porgies are being caught in the area with the smaller ones being taken from the beach and the larger ones from boats out by the entrance buoy.

## PORT JEFFERSON

Ken from the **Angler's Den** reports nice size blues being taken from Mt. Sinai to buoy 9. Several of these fish reach 16 lbs. and are trolled deep using umbrella rigs or large single tubes. Ken advises fishing the sharp dropoff into 50 feet of water. Large porgies are in the same area closer to the beach. Although a few 8 to 10 lb. striped bass have been taken from Conscience Bay fishing for them is very slow. There is just a slow pick on fluke this past week.

## NORTHPORT

According to Art Miller at **Larkfield Sport Center** there are loads of snappers and quite a few taylor blues at the LILCO discharge and Centerport Mill Dam. Many of these fish are taken on shinny lures such as Sidewinders, Kastmaster or Johnson Sprite. There are still fluke off the beaches but not as plentiful as previous weeks. Art says the blues are out there, meaning from Stratford Shoal to Cranes Neck. These fish are trolled deep and when you lose them try coming up to mid water. The schools of blues are difficult to hold in one area and varying depths must be fished to locate and catch these blues. For all purposes striped bass fishing is non-existent.

## HUNTINGTON

Captain Pete of **The Ever Ready** said the slow down in fluke has been picked up very nicely with the good catches of porgies. Most of these porgies are caught in the morning. A few blues have been seen and some have been caught.

**Four Winds Bait & Tackle** reports some blues were taken before the weekend between buoys 13 and 11B. These were

**Jay Holthusen of Huntington Sta. caught this 32 lb. bass on live bunker fishing Huntington Inlet. Photo courtesy of Ronnie's Bait & Tackle.**


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7A.M. SAT.&SUN.

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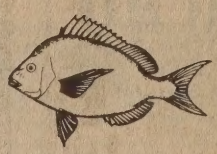

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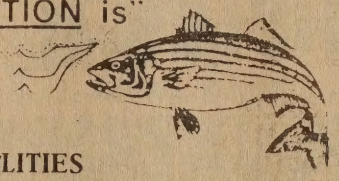

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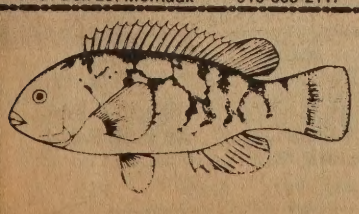

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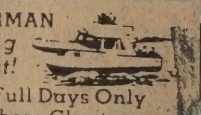

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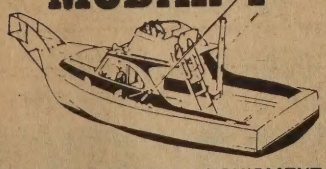

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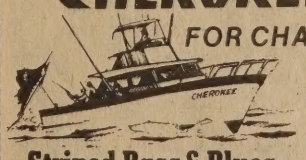


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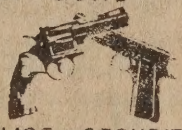

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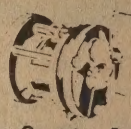

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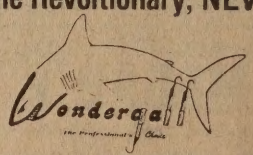


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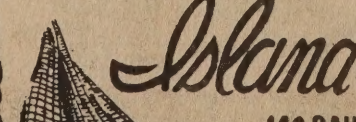

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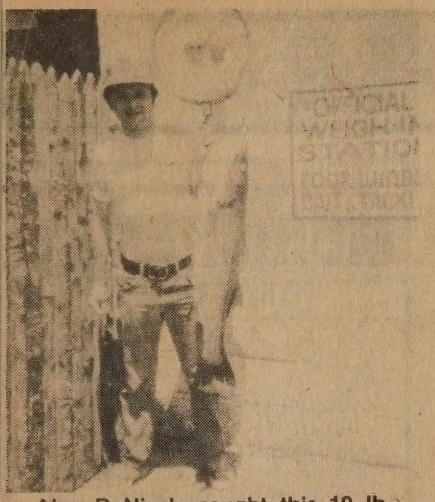

**Alan DeNicola caught this 19 lb. striper on a live bunker in Eaton's Neck. Photo courtesy of Four Winds Tackle.**

taken on wire line with buck tails or umbrella rigs.small catches of big fluke that go 4 to 6 lbs. have been had at buoy 13. Striped bass fishing particularly for the worm men is very slow. This could be due to the large amount of snappers that take their bait. Big porgies of 1 and 2 lbs. have been taken off Marshall Field or at buoy 13.

## GLEN COVE

**Glen Cove Sport Shop** reports big blues have been feeding all week till Saturday night on bunker. John advises that you get your bunker in the harbor and then head out to the B racing buoy and fish from their to the red nun near Pt. Washington.It is so good that 3 good customers took 3 blues in one-half hour. All three weighed between 7¾ to 15½ lbs. Snappers are everywhere and are just about 6 inches. Wait a week or two and they will be the right size for eating.

BLUES, BLUES, BLUES! On a balmy evening, last week, Dick Meixner and Sion Mitrany, experienced fisherman to say the least, really hit the bluefish in Hempstead Harboar. Within an hours time they had at least forty on board and weary from the fight as you can imagine. Upon returning to shore, they boasted of their catch as any fisherman would. Forty blues they shouted to a nearby angler who was not as lucky as them. Come look at our catch! The unlucky fisherman ventured over to Sion's craft anxiously awaiting to gaze into pails of blues. After looking for a moment or two, he remarked to the two fortunate fisherman, "Those fish aren't blues-thats bunker!!! Our fisherman returned home defeated.

## PORT WASHINGTON

Rocky at **Morelands Bait & Tackle** says there are a lot of striped bass and also a lot of shorts that are being taken either worming or plugging. Rocky advises to worm near the grass areas as he himself picked up a nice 7 pounder there. Bluefish are on the outside and are being taken with chunk bunker fished on top. On Friday Ira Linder picked up a 13 lb. 7 oz. blue this way. At the dock there are loads of snappers but they are only 5 to 6 inches long. Fluke fishing can be good says Rocky if you would fish the drop off at most of the points using squid and killies.

## CITY ISLAND

John at **White Plains Gun & Tackle** reports large blues are being taken off the racing buoy in 40 to 50 feet of water. Capt. Zack Grossman of the Striper Hawk has been learning to catch these big blues by fishing with John Palmieri on board the boat Jacqueline. They took 23 blues in the evening fishing from 7 to 9:30. Some of them went to 13 lbs. and all were taken on cut mackerel. Meanwhile everyone is doing fine trolling big surgical tubes off Mamaroneck for these fine big blues. Off Stamford porgies are pretty good.

**J.J. Burck** on City Island Avenue reports that angler Jack Katz on the Rojac took 12 blues from 10 to 13 pounds from the south end of Hart's Island on bunker chum and mackerel chunks. This was in the wee hours of August 5th.

**Kenny Baptiste of the Bronx took this 5 ½ lb. fluke fishing aboard the "Ebb Tide" out of City Island. The fish was taken on sandworms while fishing for porgies and blacks.**


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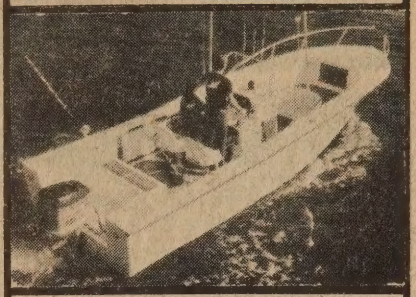

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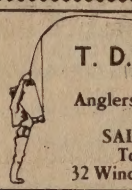

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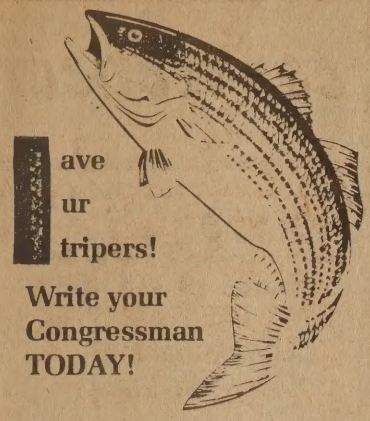

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FISH & HULA HOOPS
(continued from page 5.)

**weakfish with an aftificial and Scott Simons has been known to dirty his hands with porgy chum on more than one occasion. Stu Miller can be found floating in Jones Inlet looking for fluke on most summer weekends and our publisher can be found in any of these disguises depending upon the whims that capture him.**

**Hula hoops and sharps are great, but let's not forget where our bread is buttered. Right between the bluefish fillet and the blowfish tail.**

THE VACUUM CLEANER
(Continued from page 9.)

we saw that day.

Day three was a Saturday and Marvin and I were ready to assault the bass once more. On this day my wife bowed off the scene since the weather was a bit more than she could handle. Conditions were worse, with stronger winds and a persistent downpour.

"Hoss, we're gonna fish a honey hole. It's in Moultrie and it's gonna be rough today."

Boy was Marvin ever right. There was so much honey flowing out of this hole that we caught 23 bass on crank baits between 6:30 A.M. and 7:30 A.M. By noon time we had caught, and for the most part released, some thirty bass. After lunch we headed back to the upper lake with the specific intent of hunting out a hawg. This type of fishing is usually slow going, but in the course of the afternoon we caught another 20 fish.

This day just flew by, and when I checked my watch I was astonished to see that it was 4:30 P.M. "Almost time to call it quits," I reluctantly stated. "Looks like that big one will pass us by on this trip." "Still got plenty of time, Hoss. Gotta get you that big bass."

"Hey Marvin, we've been out almost eleven hours. You've given me more than my money's worth. If you have things to do, go right ahead. That lunker will come one of these days."

"Hoss, I like fishin' with ya. Let's keep pluggin."

That's the type of guy Marvin is. Dedicated, honest and always pluggin'. Do you know that he guides primarily on weekends and part time. He holds down a darn good full time job with the state, and it takes up most of his time. But, the fact of the matter is that he usually does better on a part time basis, than most of the full time guides. I can vouch that he sometimes even has other "pros" following him around.

As we moved from one cypress to the next, casting and jawboning, we dis cussed the philosophy of bass fishing, primarily the subject of tournament bassin'. Though Marvin has tended to shy away from tourney type fishing, I think that he is now contemplating giving one or two a try. As a matter of fact, he indicated that he would most likely be fishing the next Santee Cooper B.A.S.S. Tournament. If you follow the circuit, I'm certain that you'll see his name on the list of the top finishers.

"There he is Hoss. Got him." A nice four pounder flopped into the boat. "Your turn Hoss."

It was now quite late and my arm just about got the worm to the base of the stick-up. As the plastic lure started to sink, I felt a pick-up. The line started to straighten. As I lowered the tip to give some additional line Marvin yelled to me, "Hoss, bust this #=#=#=#." I did and so did the bass. I felt his power for only an instant and then SNAP. Goodbye Charlie. Folks, that bass was HIM!

I looked at Marvin, he looked at me and I shrugged. Do you think that that man gave up? Heck no. We fished for another two hours. Though I did manage to bag a bass a little better than 6¼ pounds, my biggest of the trip, on a shallow running plug, it wasn't the ten pounder I'd hoped for.

"Well Hoss, I put ya on him. That's the way it goes. Maybe next time."

You had better believe that there will be a next time, and soon. And you can bet I'll be hooked up to the vacuum cleaner while he just gathers up those bass. And I know that big one is a comin'.

If you are interested in a Santee Cooper trip and need some accomodations and a guide, let me offer the following suggestions.

Guide—Marvin Mims, P.O. Box 281, Moncks Corner, So. Carolina 29461. (803) 899-2934. P.S. Tell Marvin "Hoss" sent you.

Accomodations—Canal Motel and Restaurant, (803) 753-2767. Ask for Gene or Mari Dickson (owners.)


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### TAGGIN' TIME
(Continued from page 15.)

or falling free due to boat movement.

Once in the boat, a fish should be handled carefully, so keep a wet rag handy too. This item, when placed around or over a fish's head will keep him calm and eliminate most thrashing around. The wet cloth also keeps moisture around the gills which provides enough oxygen to cut down the possibility of suffocation and lessens the need to revive the fish when released.

Should a fish need to be revived, just place it in the water and gently move it backward and forward to create a flow of water over the gills which allows the fish to regain lost oxygen. He should revive after a minute of this and swim off under his own power.

When a tagged fish is recaptured, its length, weight and location caught are forwarded to ALS. This information is compared to the original tagging record to determine growth and movements of ths particular fish. Should you catch a tagged fish you might consider gathering the necessary information and releasing it again with the same tag or one of your own in place.

The smallest fish that can be expected to survive tagging is one of about 8-10" in length. The largest is as big as you can bring yourself to release without breaking down in tears. And, remember to fill out and mail the return cards. there have been some tags returned to ALS that had no card on file to be checked against. This negates the value of tagging the fish in the first place.

New to the program is a series of green "spaghetti" tags made available for use on bluefish. ALS believes there is less chance for the darker tags being bitten off by fish attracted by bright colors. This may improve the return percentages and add that much more to our knowledge. Also available are darts to be used with the standard tag on big game species such as billfish, tuna and in Graham MacMillan's favorite pastime tagging sharks.

If you are interested in taking part in the Societies tagging program, write them at: The American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook, Highlands, New Jersey 07732, for further details. Tagging kits cost $2.50 with each kit containing ten tags with corresponding return cards and an insertion tube. By the way, the money spent on tagging kits is tax deductible. That's another reason to start tagging!

Well, that's about it, a way for you as an individual angler to do something positive to help the striped bass and other gamefish, to help science and to help yourself by getting involved and adding another aspect to your sport.

### BIG TUNA
(Continued from page 21.)

Claw no shank hook. For this fishing, the no shank Eagle Claw hook in sizes 3/0 to 5/0 are about the best sizes. The idea of the no shank hook is for the purpose of concealment from the shark eyed tuna.

On a small boat, three rigs are set out at varying levels until the depth at which the fish are found. One should be set out with one bait at say 20 feet deep. the second at 50 feet and the third around a hundred feet. Different baits should be used on each rig if they are available. About the only thing to remember about rigging the bait is to try to keep the hook as concealed as possible. The baited rigs are attached to the terminal end of the mono by a slightly heavier leader than the line on the reel. For example under normal conditions, a 50 pound mono leader is used when 40 pound line is on the reel. A three foot length is about right and a black barrel swivel testing around 75 pounds is used to attach them together. It should be kept in mind however, that there are times when a 20 or 30 pound leader must be used in order to get any action. If there is no action forthcoming on the heavier leaders, don't be afraid to go light. This is especially true when the water visibility is very good.

Once the baited rigs are set out, the reel is kept in free spool with the clicker on and put in rod holders. All you can do now is wait until something gives. If you get no life in 4 hours, try another drop. I will make no more than two drops in a single day. It really doesn't pay to go running around too much.

Once that clicker goes off, grab the reel as quickly as possible. The fish may feel the tension of the spring and drop the bait. After you give the fish a second or so, put the reel into gear, and hang on. After its first run, you should have an idea on the size of the fish. Before you even begin fishing though, preset the drags on all the reels so that way there are no problems when you go to stick the fish. As long as you are using good quality mono, and the line is free from cuts and nicks, you can really lean on a fish with 40 pound mono. I like to set the drag at about 80 percent of its breaking point and really go at the fish. You have to remember one thing, and that's the longer you have the fish on, the greater the chances of losing it. If the hook doesn't pull out within the first few minutes, it's probably in the fish good. These small shank hooks have a tendency to wear a hole in the fish's mouth the longer you play the fish. There is nothing quite as disappointing as having the hook pull on a decent fish after you have him on for 45 minutes. By decent fish, I mean fish over 60 pounds, the smaller ones are usually no problem on the 4/0's.

If the tuna are uncooperative, there almost always seems to be a good number of albacore around. These fish, though they seldom go over 25 pounds, are a ball on light outfits. Many are the times they salvaged an otherwise futile tuna trip.

Disposal of tuna should be taken into consideration by the fisherman. A single tuna is about all I need for food, and unless I get a request from neighbors or friends, the rest get a free ride. Hopefully these new tuna regulations will once again allow the bluefin tuna to return to its former abundance.

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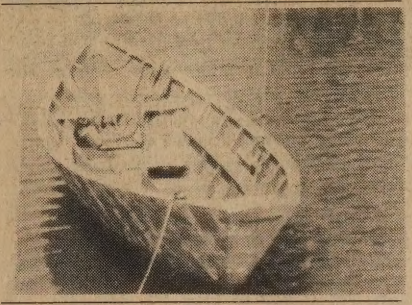
27' ULRICHSON 1965 Sportfisherman with Flybridge 11' beam, Sleeps four, 1973 F/W/C Crusader 270 h.p., 250 hours. Many extras. Good condition. $2950. Call 473-0152 or 473-1215.



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SEA CRAFT—Sceptres, 20' O/B, 23' I/O, TWO LEFT—P.J. GRADY, 118 Montauk Highway, W. Sayville N.Y. Call (516) 589-3100.

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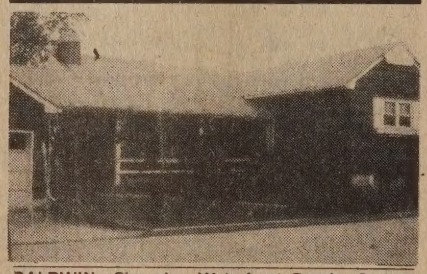

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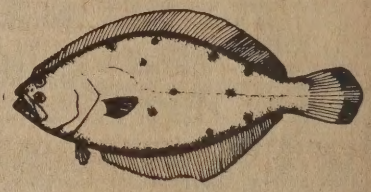

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# HIGH TIDE TABLES

| DAY | SANDY HOOK AM | SANDY HOOK PM | Breakwater Harbor AM | Breakwater Harbor PM | NEW YORK AM | NEW YORK PM | NEW LONDON AM | NEW LONDON PM | WILLETS POINT AM | WILLETS POINT PM | BRIDGE-PORT AM | BRIDGE-PORT PM | NEW-PORT AM | NEW-PORT PM | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| THUR | 10:07 | 10:22 | 10:59 | 11:15 | 10:55 | 11:09 | 11:44 | 11:59 | 1:36 | 1:54 | 1:15 | 1:37 | 10:00 | 10:18 | 8/12 |
| FRI | 10:47 | 11:02 | 11:39 | 11:55 | 11:40 | 11:50 | — | 12:26 | 2:03 | 2:16 | 1:55 | 2:18 | 10:42 | 11:00 | 8/13 |
| SAT | 11:22 | 11:42 | — | 12:20 | — | 12:22 | 12:41 | 1:10 | 2:24 | 2:43 | 2:35 | 2:58 | 11:27 | 11:41 | 8/14 |
| SUN | — | 12:09 | 12:35 | 1:03 | 12:30 | 1:05 | 1:26 | 1:56 | 2:56 | 3:19 | 3:19 | 3:43 | — | 12:12 | 8/15 |
| MON | 12:25 | 12:49 | 1:17 | 1:48 | 1:10 | 1:44 | 2:14 | 2:45 | 3:36 | 4:00 | 4:05 | 4:29 | 12:26 | 12:58 | 8/16 |
| TUE | 1:09 | 1:34 | 2:03 | 2:39 | 1:52 | 2:27 | 3:07 | 3:37 | 4:23 | 4:47 | 4:55 | 5:21 | 1:16 | 1:51 | 8/17 |
| WED | 1:57 | 2:26 | 2:58 | 3:37 | 2:37 | 3:15 | 4:05 | 4:31 | 5:14 | 5:41 | 5:51 | 6:15 | 2:12 | 2:47 | 8/18 |
| THUR | 2:52 | 3:23 | 3:57 | 4:34 | 3:33 | 4:10 | 5:02 | 5:23 | 6:13 | 6:40 | 6:50 | 7:13 | 3:11 | 3:43 | 8/19 |

## HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

## On SANDY HOOK

| | |
|---|---|
| STATEN ISLAND | + 0 27 |
| ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS | — 0 01 |
| Red Bank, Navesink R.I. | + 0 48 |
| Long Branch | — 0 34 |
| SHARK RIVER INLET | — 0 18 |
| Shark River Basin | + 0 27 |
| MANASQUAN INLET | — 0 12 |
| Seaside Park | — 0 33 |
| Mantoloking Bridge | + 5 34 |
| TOMS RIVER | + 4 37 |
| Waretown | + 2 33 |
| BARNEGAT LIGHT | — 0 20 |
| Manahawkin Bridge | + 2 33 |
| Beach Haven | + 1 47 |
| LITTLE EGG INLET | — 0 01 |
| Seven Islands | + 0 12 |
| Graveling Point | + 1 05 |
| Mullica River | + 1 55 |
| Grassy Bay | + 1 08 |
| ABSECON INLET | + 0 14 |
| Atlantic City Pier | — 0 26 |
| Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet | + 0 12 |
| GREAT EGG HARBOR | + 0 46 |
| CORSON INLET | + 0 09 |
| TOWNESEND INLET | + 0 06 |
| HEREFORD INLET | + 0 02 |
| Grassy Sound Bridge | + 0 45 |
| Cape May Harbor | — 0 02 |
| Rehoboth Beach | — 0 07 |
| INDIAN RIVER INLET | + 0 14 |
| SHINNECOCK INLET | — 0 50 |
| Shinnecock Bay | + 1 25 |
| East Quogue | + 2 45 |
| Shinnecock Canal | + 1 18 |
| Indian Reservation | + 3 05 |
| MORICHES INLET | — 0 56 |
| Smith's Point | + 3 28 |
| Harts Cove | + 1 30 |
| Potunck Point | + 3 35 |
| Mastic Beach | + 3 28 |
| FIRE ISLAND INLET | — 0 38 |
| Democrat Point | — 0 38 |
| Coast Guard Station | — 0 19 |
| Fire Island Light | + 0 47 |
| GREAT SOUTH BAY | |
| Sayville | + 3 39 |
| Heckscher State Pk. | + 3 20 |
| Bay Shore | + 2 23 |
| Babylon | + 2 12 |
| Amityville | + 2 21 |
| JONES INLET | — 0 19 |
| Zachs Bay | + 1 25 |
| Seaford Harbor | + 2 05 |
| Freeport Creek | + 0 34 |
| E. ROCKAWAY INLET | — 0 06 |
| Long Beach Bridge | + 0 19 |
| ROCKAWAY INLET | — 0 00 |
| Beach Ch. Bridge | + 0 38 |
| JFK Airport | + 0 26 |

## On BRIDGEPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Lloyd Point | + 0 08 |
| Cold Spring Harbor | + 0 08 |
| Bayville Bridge | + 0 13 |
| Eatons Neck Point | + 0 03 |
| Northport Bay | + 0 03 |
| Norwalk Islands | + 0 10 |
| Smithtown Bay | — 0 03 |
| Cranes Neck Point | + 0 05 |
| Port Jefferson Harbor | + 0 03 |
| New Haven Harbor | + 0 08 |
| Mount Sinai Harbor | — 0 08 |
| Herod Point | — 0 07 |
| Mattituck Inlet | + 0 19 |
| Horton Point | — 0 20 |
| Truman Beach | — 0 42 |
| Falkner Island | — 0 13 |
| Sachem Head | — 0 10 |
| Branford Harbor | — 0 07 |
| New Haven Harbor | — 0 08 |
| Milford Harbor | — 0 07 |
| Stratford | + 0 27 |
| Shelton | + 1 36 |
| Black Rock Harbor | — 0 03 |
| Saugatuck River | — 0 01 |
| South Norwalk | + 0 10 |
| Greens Ledge | — 0 01 |
| Stamford | + 0 04 |
| Cos Cob Harbor | + 0 06 |
| Greenwich | + 0 02 |

## On NEW LONDON

| | |
|---|---|
| Orient Point | + 0 27 |
| Little Gull Is. (Race) | + 0 12 |
| Greenport | + 1 04 |
| Southold | + 1 43 |
| New Suffolk | + 2 26 |
| South Jamesport | + 2 32 |
| Shinnecock Canal | + 2 33 |
| Noyack Bay | + 2 05 |
| Sag Harbor | + 0 59 |
| Gardiners Bay | + 0 21 |
| Promised Land | — 0 14 |
| Montauk Inlet | — 0 25 |
| Montauk Point | — 1 13 |
| Niantic | + 1 20 |
| Stonington | — 0 33 |
| Noank, Mystic River | — 0 23 |
| THAMES RIVER | |
| Smith Cove | — 0 01 |
| Norwich | + 0 09 |
| CONNECTICUT RIVER | |
| Saybrook jetty | + 1 10 |
| Lyme | + 1 24 |
| Essex | + 1 38 |
| East Haddam | + 2 41 |
| Higganum Creek | + 2 54 |

## On WILLETS PT.

| | |
|---|---|
| Little Neck Bay | — 0 10 |
| Execution Light | — 0 06 |
| Manhasset Bay | — 0 01 |
| Hempstead Harbor | — 0 11 |
| City Island | — 0 03 |
| Rye Beach | — 0 28 |
| Port Chester | — 0 09 |
| Mamaroneck | — 0 08 |
| New Rochelle | — 0 24 |
| Davids Island | — 0 02 |

## On B'WATER HB.

| | |
|---|---|
| CAPE MAY POINT | — 0 10 |
| Miami Beach | + 1 17 |
| East Point | + 0 53 |
| Egg Island Point | + 0 33 |
| Cape Henlopen | — 0 05 |
| ROOSEVELT INLET | + 0 09 |
| Mispillion River Ent. | + 0 33 |
| St. Jones River Ent. | + 0 57 |

## On NEW YORK

| | |
|---|---|
| Jersey City | + 0 07 |
| Geo. Washington Br. | + 0 46 |
| Spuyten Duyvil | + 0 58 |
| Ossining | + 1 53 |
| Peekskill | + 2 24 |
| West Point | + 3 16 |
| Newburg | + 3 42 |

## On NEWPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Sakonnet | — 0 10 |
| Tiverton | + 0 21 |
| Beavertail Point | — 0 02 |
| Prudence Is., Sandy Pt. | + 0 10 |
| Bristol | + 0 10 |
| Warren | + 0 21 |
| Nayatt Point | + 0 12 |
| Pawtucket | + 0 21 |
| East Greenwich | + 0 16 |
| Wickford | + 0 12 |
| Narragansett Pier | — 0 08 |
| Point Judith Harbor | — 0 07 |
| BLOCK ISLAND | |
| Great Salt Pond | + 0 05 |
| Old Harbor | — 0 14 |
| Watch Hill Point | + 0 44 |

## SUNRISE/SUNSET

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8/8 | 6:00 | 8:10 |
| 8/13 | 6:06 | 8:03 |
| 8/18 | 6:10 | 7:57 |
| 8/23 | 6:16 | 7:48 |
| 8/28 | 6:21 | 7:40 |

## PHASES OF THE MOON

| NEW | 1st Qtr. | FULL | 2nd Qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8/25 | 8/2 | 8/9 | 8/18 |

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

| | AM Minor | AM Major | PM Minor | PM Major |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| THURS. | 6:55 | **1:15** | 7:20 | **1:35** |
| FRI. | 7:40 | **2:00** | 8:10 | **2:20** |
| SAT. | 8:35 | **2:45** | 8:55 | **3:05** |
| SUN. | 9:20 | **3:30** | 9:40 | **3:55** |
| MON. | 10:10 | **4:20** | 10:30 | **4:40** |
| TUES. | 10:55 | **5:10** | 11:20 | **5:30** |
| WED. | 11:45 | **5:55** | — | **6:20** |
| THURS. | 12:05 | **6:40** | 12:35 | **7:05** |

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